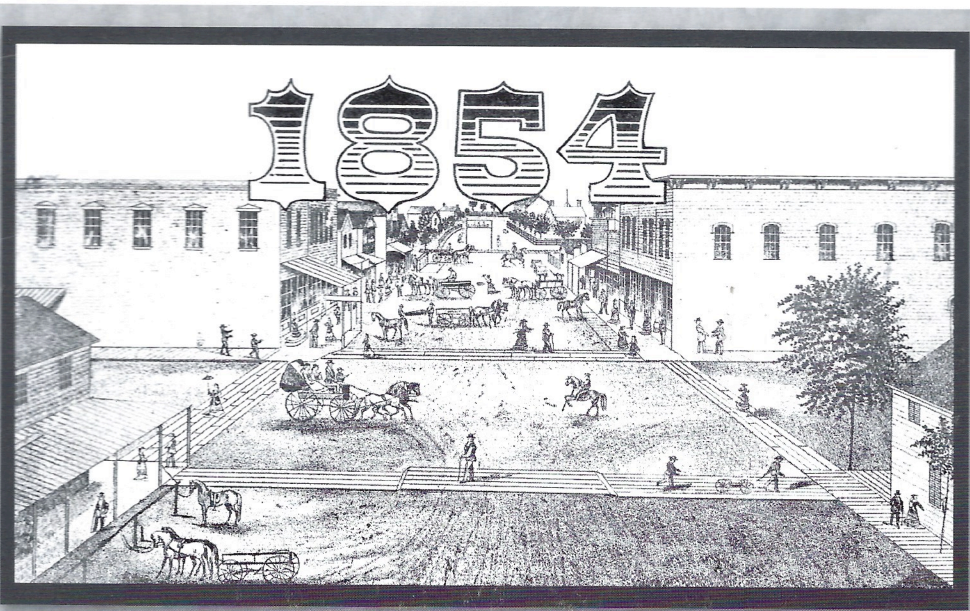
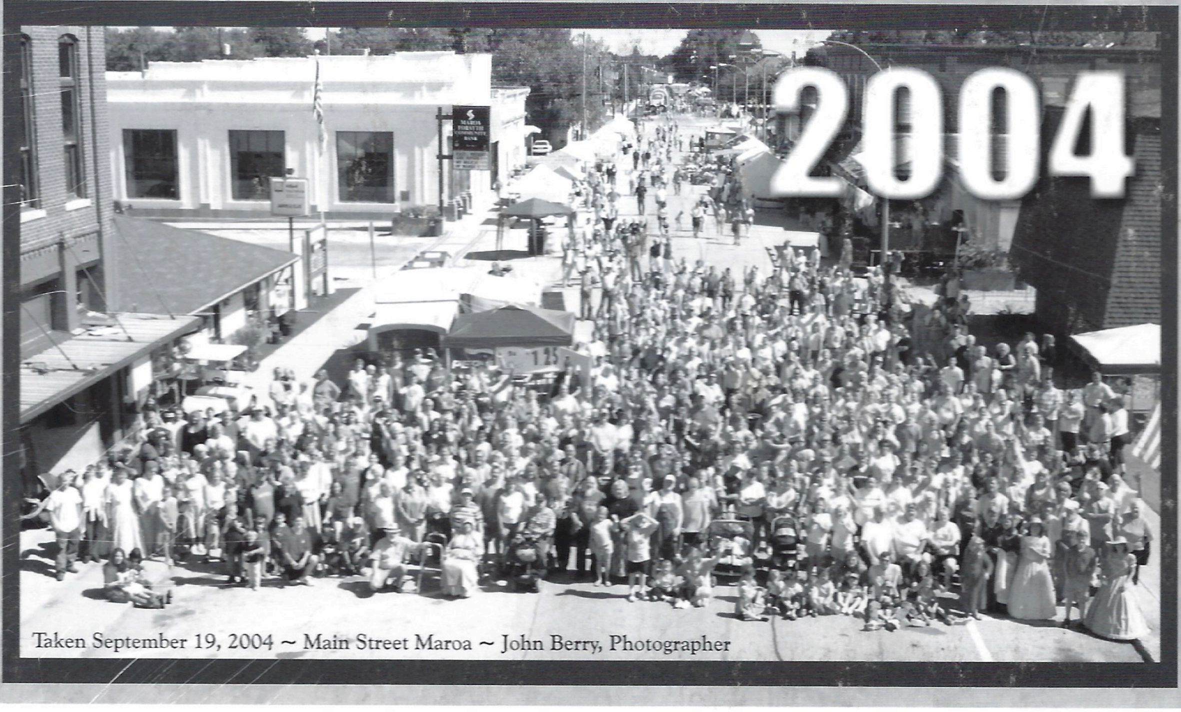


1954
SUPER WAY



Taken September 19, 2004 ~ Main Street Maroa ~ John Berry, Photographer

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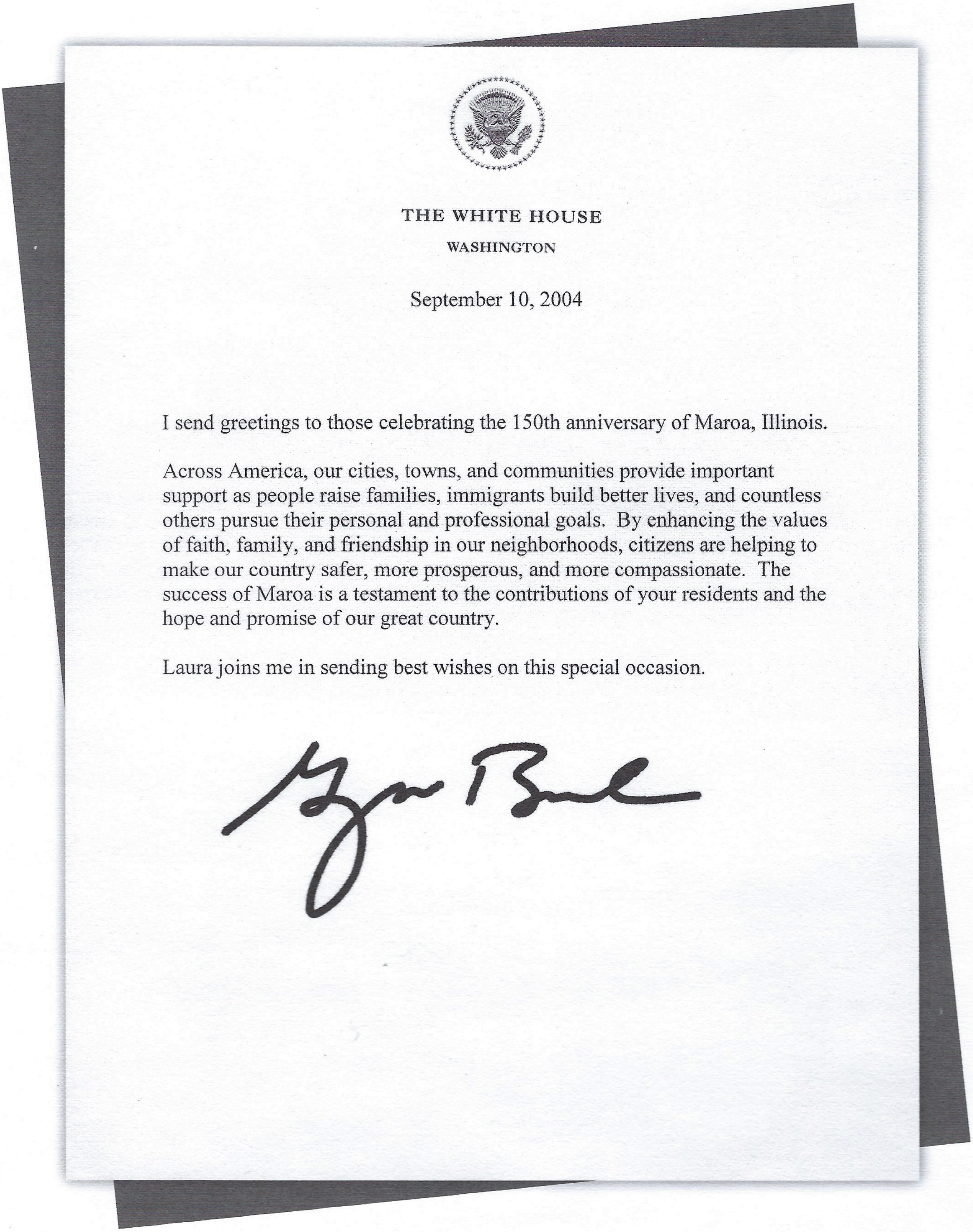

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 10, 2004

I send greetings to those celebrating the 150th anniversary of Maroa, Illinois.

Across America, our cities, towns, and communities provide important support as people raise families, immigrants build better lives, and countless others pursue their personal and professional goals. By enhancing the values of faith, family, and friendship in our neighborhoods, citizens are helping to make our country safer, more prosperous, and more compassionate. The success of Maroa is a testament to the contributions of your residents and the hope and promise of our great country.

Laura joins me in sending best wishes on this special occasion.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JRTC, 100 WEST RANDOLPH, SUITE 16
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

ROD BLAGOJEVICH
GOVERNOR

September 17, 2004

CONGRATULATIONS

As Governor, and on behalf of the citizens of the State of Illinois, it is my pleasure to join Maroa, Illinois in celebration of your ***Sesquicentennial Anniversary***.

This is indeed a significant and meaningful milestone for your citizens, lawmakers and for the people of Illinois as a whole. It takes a great deal of hard work and diligence to create the foundation for a successful community. One hundred and fifty years ago that foundation was established, and you have continued to build upon it ever since. In addition, your rich history truly sets you apart from other municipalities, and your longevity serves as a testament to the tremendous commitment that you continue to show towards the prosperity of the community.

It is my honor to join you in commemorating your *Sesquicentennial Anniversary*. I offer my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable celebration.

Sincerely,

Rod Blagojevich

Rod Blagojevich
Governor

RICHARD J. DURBIN
ILLINOIS

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(217) 492–4062

701 NORTH COURT STREET
MARION, IL 62959
(618) 998–8812

Best Wishes
Dick Durbin

September 17, 2004

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to congratulate the city of Maroa and its citizens on its sesquicentennial celebration. This is a wonderful opportunity to join together to celebrate the rich history and bright future of Maroa.

Again, I would like to congratulate the entire community on this incredible milestone. I wish Maroa all the best.

Very truly yours,

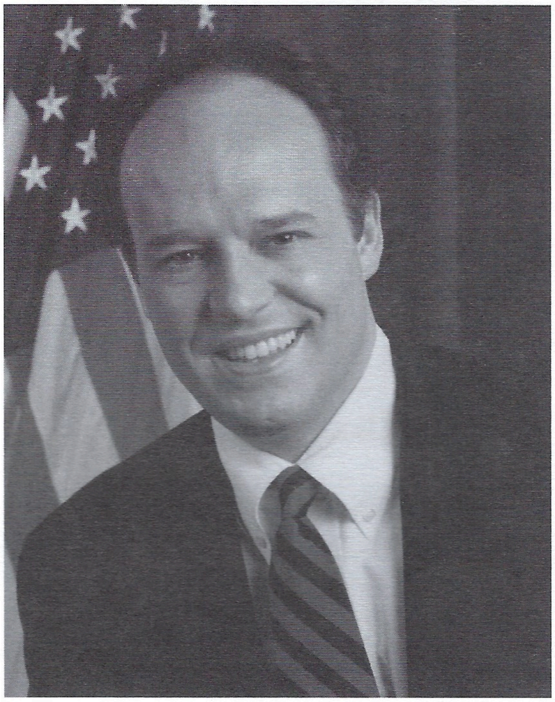
Dick Durbin

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 14, 2004

Dr. Raymond J. Ramirez, DVM
Maroa Sesquicentennial Book Chairman
124 South Walnut Street
P.O. Box 448
Maroa, IL 61756-0448



Greetings:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome all of you to the City of Maroa Sesquicentennial Year Celebration.

I am grateful to have the opportunity to send my congratulations to the officials and residents of the City of Maroa as you celebrate 150 years of city government.

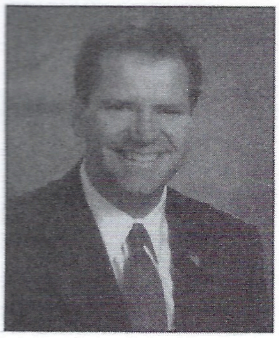
On behalf of the citizens of Illinois, please accept my congratulations and best wishes for a delightful celebration.

Very truly yours,

Peter G. Fitzgerald

Peter G. Fitzgerald
United States Senator

PGF/str



BILL BRADY
STATE SENATOR
44TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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217/782-6216
FAX: 217/782-0116

☐ 332 W. MARION AVE., STE. N-1
FORSYTH, IL 62535
217/876-9407

November 25, 2003

City of Maroa
124 South Walnut Street
P.O. Box 448
Maroa, IL 61756-0448

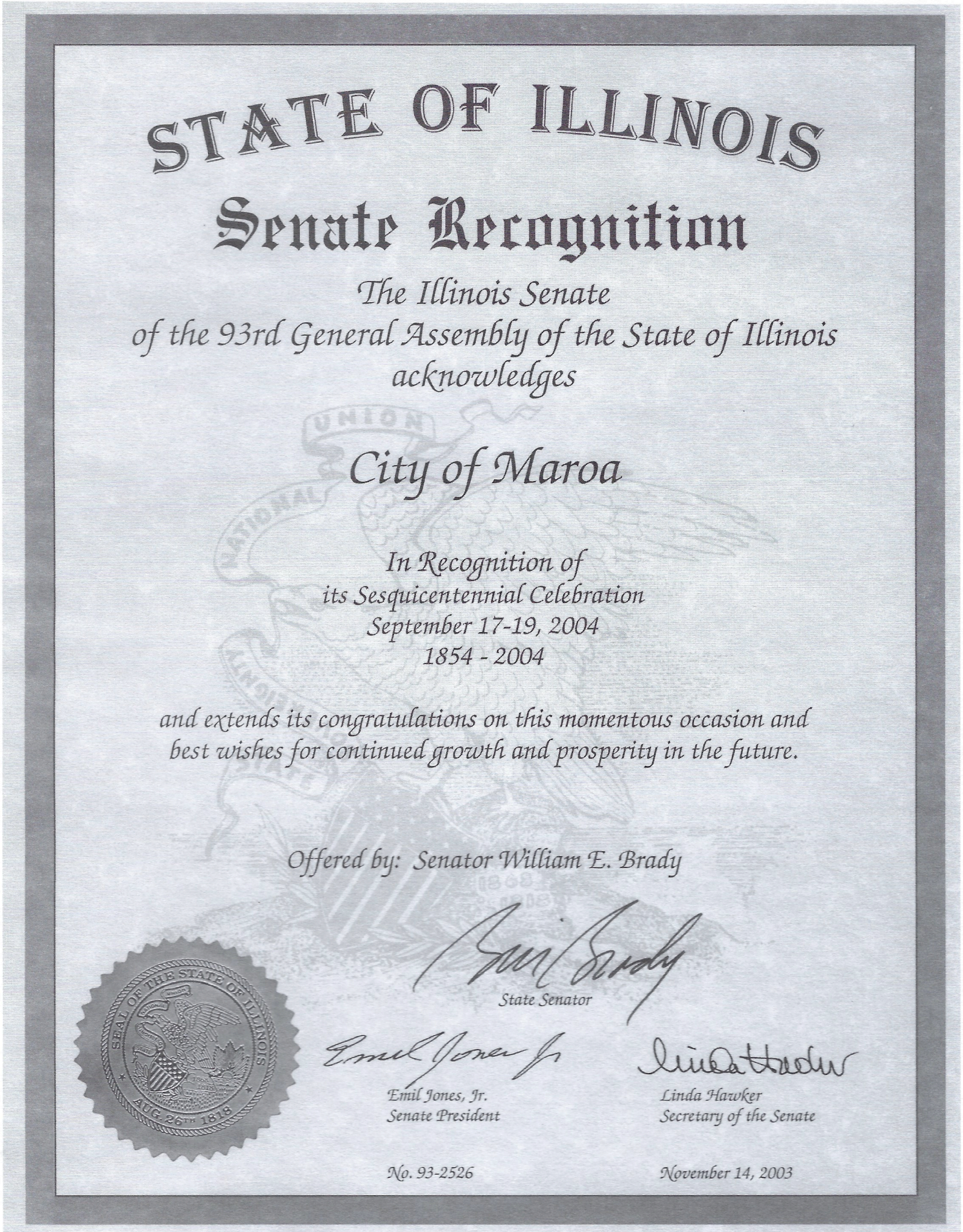
Dear Maroa Citizens:

I would like to congratulate the City of Maroa on its Sesquicentennial Celebration on September 17th, 18th, and 19th of 2004. This is a great achievement for the citizens of Maroa.

Once again, congratulations to the City of Maroa. I would like to offer my best wishes for the future.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM E. BRADY
State Senator – 44th District



STATE OF ILLINOIS

Senate Recognition

The Illinois Senate
of the 93rd General Assembly of the State of Illinois
acknowledges

City of Maroa

In Recognition of
its Sesquicentennial Celebration
September 17-19, 2004
1854 - 2004

and extends its congratulations on this momentous occasion and best wishes for continued growth and prosperity in the future.

Offered by: Senator William E. Brady

State Senator

AUG 26TH 1818

Emil Jones Jr

Emil Jones, Jr.
Senate President

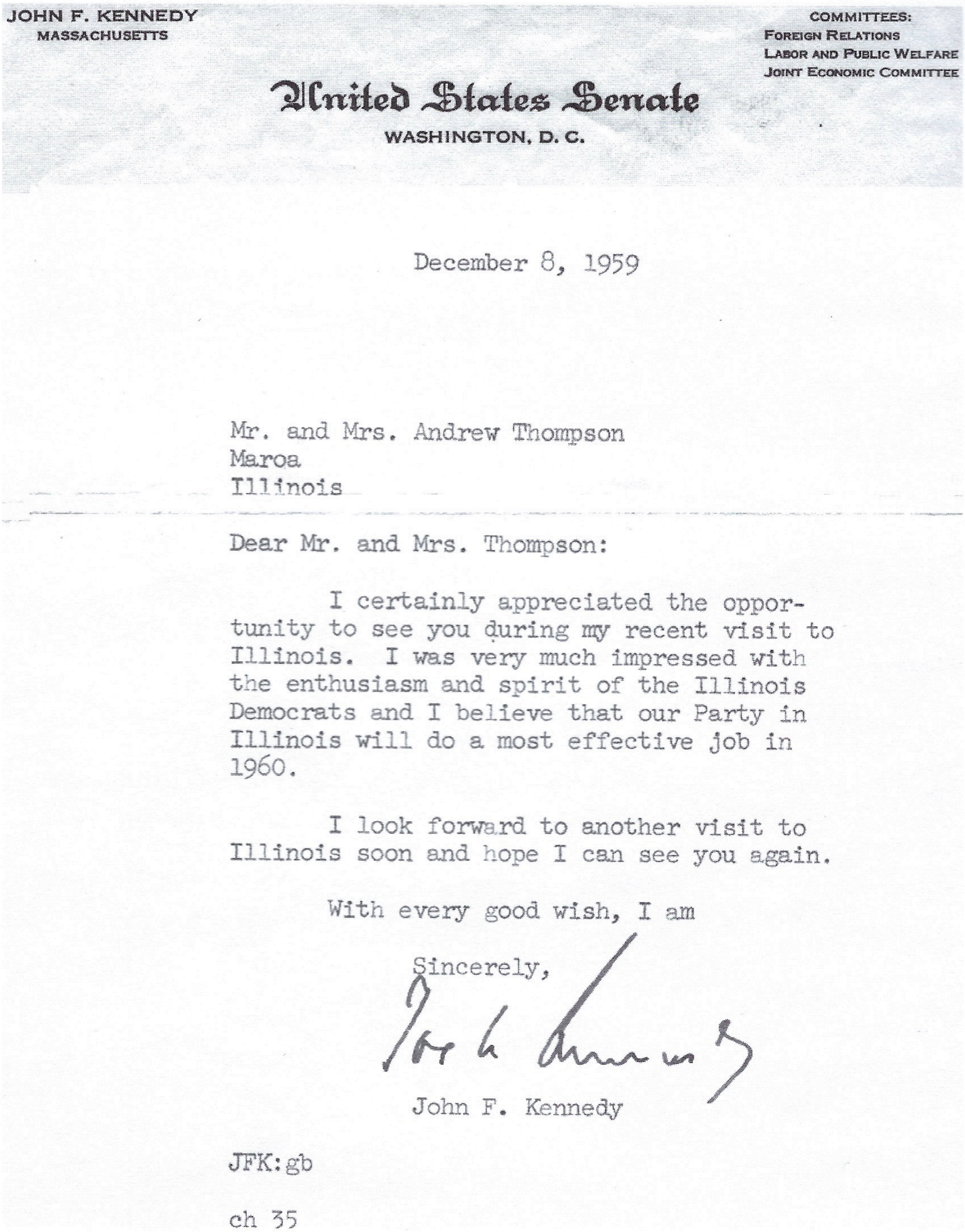
Linda Hawker

Linda Hawker
Secretary of the Senate

No. 93-2526

November 14, 2003

Memories from 1959



JOHN F. KENNEDY
MASSACHUSETTS

COMMITTEES:
FOREIGN RELATIONS
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 8, 1959

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Thompson
Maroa
Illinois

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Thompson:

I certainly appreciated the opportunity to see you during my recent visit to Illinois. I was very much impressed with the enthusiasm and spirit of the Illinois Democrats and I believe that our Party in Illinois will do a most effective job in 1960.

I look forward to another visit to Illinois soon and hope I can see you again.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

Jack Kennedy

John F. Kennedy

JFK:gb

ch 35

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Laura Ingraham	7pm-9pm

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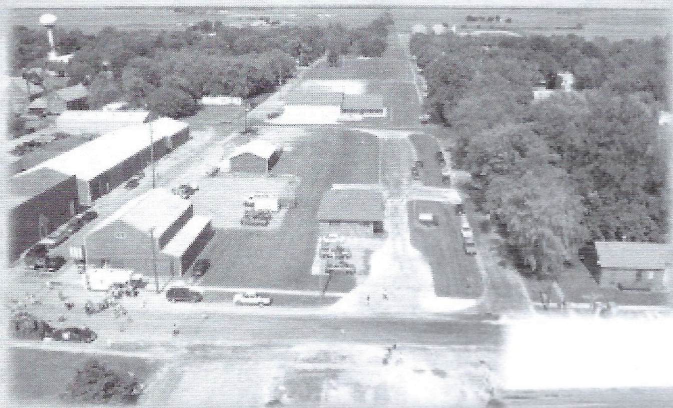
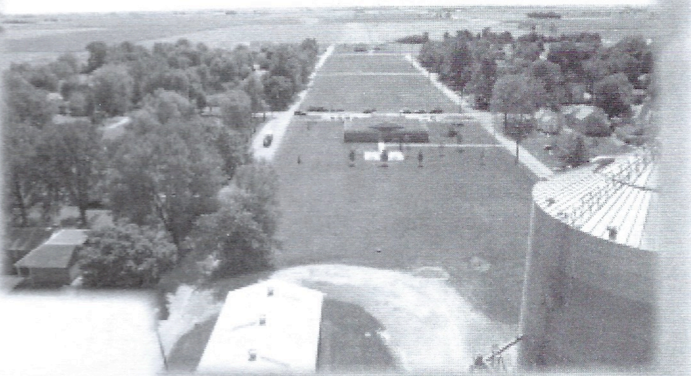


NORTH....



...SOUTH....

...EAST....

...OR WEST...

OUR HOMETOWN IS SIMPLY THE BEST!

These photos taken by John Berry from atop the grain elevator

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful year-long lead up to the terrific Sesquicentennial celebration on September 17, 18 and 19 of 2004. It was a once in a lifetime event and we on the committee hope it made that kind of memory for everyone that attended. It is wonderful and exciting to know that so many people enjoy living in Maroa so enjoyed living here in the past that they made a special trip back to be here for the Sesquicentennial Celebration. We had people come from 29 states and 4 visitors from 3 foreign countries!

The entire two-year planning process leading up to the event was an adventure. We had a great group of people who helped. Some came and helped at different times and their help was tremendously appreciated. As you look through the book, you may notice that some descriptions are longer than others. Some organizations only submitted shorter descriptions, while those with longer stories paid extra to have the additional information placed in the book. The unfortunate part of never having put on such an event before is that we made mistakes that would have been prevented with previous experience. We hope that the mistakes made during the fun weekend or in the book were not as noticeable as they were not intentional.

A sincere thank you to all the individual volunteers and businesses that helped to make the Sesquicentennial Celebration so memorable. Your support enabled all who attended to enjoy and celebrate "Small town living at it's best".

The Sesquicentennial Committee

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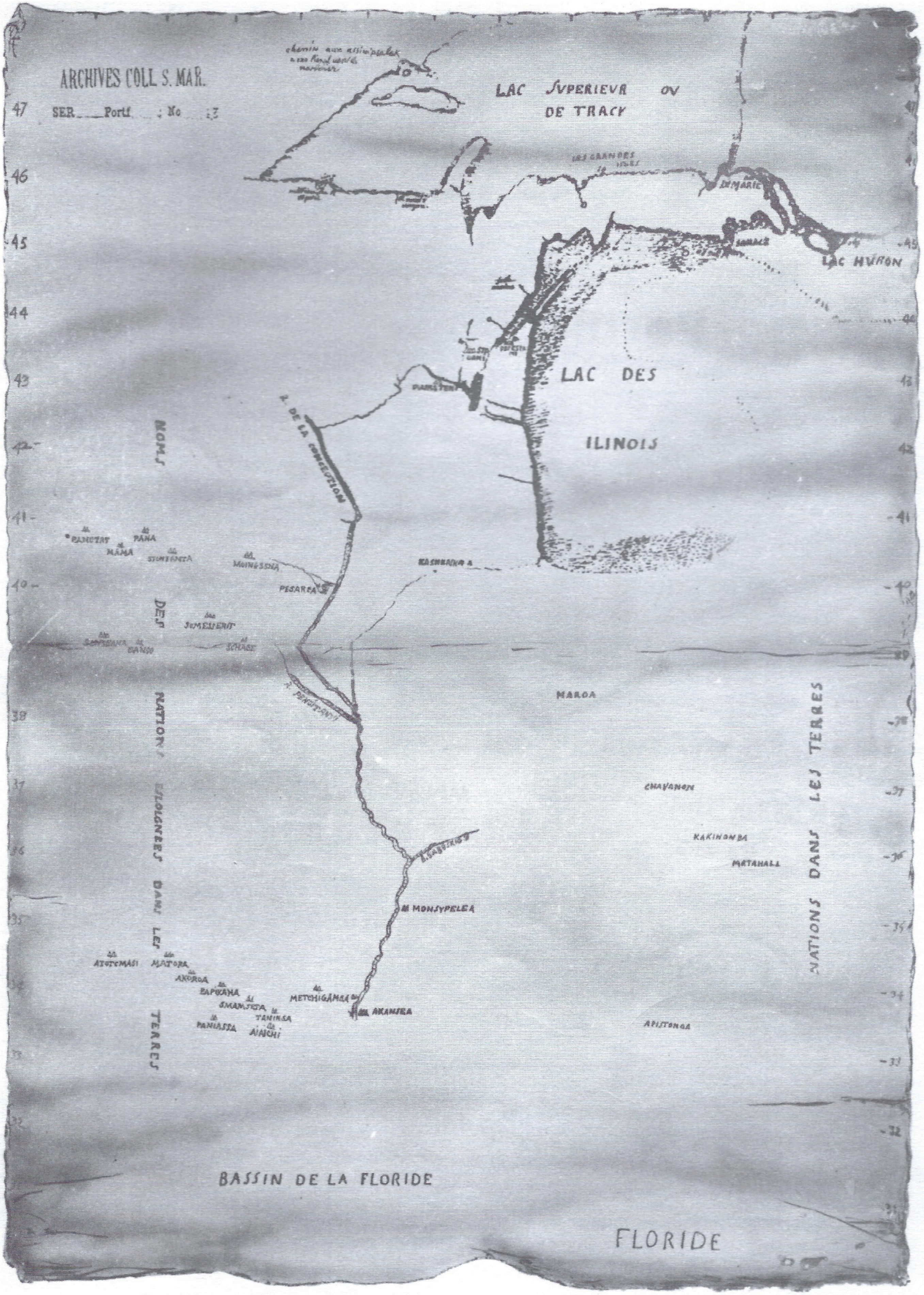
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LES GRANDES ISLES
LAC HVRON
LAC DES
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DES
NATIONS
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TERRES
PANCTAT
PANA
MAMA
SINTEANTA
MOINGSSNA
PESAREA
SUMESSERIT
SOMPSIANA
DANSO
SCHASE
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MAROA
CHAVANON
KAKINONBA
MATAHALI
NATIONS DANS LES TERRES
R. OUABOUSKIGOU
MONSYPELEA
ATOTCHASI
MATORA
AKOROA
PAPIKAHA
SMANSSEA
TANINSA
PANIASSA
AIAICHI
METCHIGAMEA
AKANSEA
APISTONGA
BASSIN DE LA FLORIDE
FLORIDE
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Information regarding Map on Opposite Page

The map on the opposite page was presented by Mr. John W. Hobbs of Springfield, Illinois in 1950's. He located this map several years ago when searching through some of the early manuscript collections that are at the Illinois State Museum. This information is most interesting in that it proves that the name of "Maroa" did exist in 1673.

The original of the map is in the Archives of the College Sainte - Marie, Montreal, Canada. A reproduction can be found in the Illinois State Museum. The Original map measured 46.7 cm x 35 cm.

The following three paragraphs are from the Ilinois State Museum Indian Villages of the Illinois Country Scientific Paper series Part 1, Volume 2.

In 1672 Jean Talon, Intendant in Canada, not long before returnign to France, conceived the plan of sending Louis Jolliet to discover and explore the great river and to ascertain into what sea it discharged (Rapport Arch. Prov Quebec, 1926-1927, p18). Frontenac did not alter this plan and late in 1672 Jolliet joined Father Jacques Marquette, who was to accompany the expedition as chaplain, at Mackinac. By way of the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers, the Mississippi River was reached in the spring of 1673. The party had left Mackinac in May of 1673.

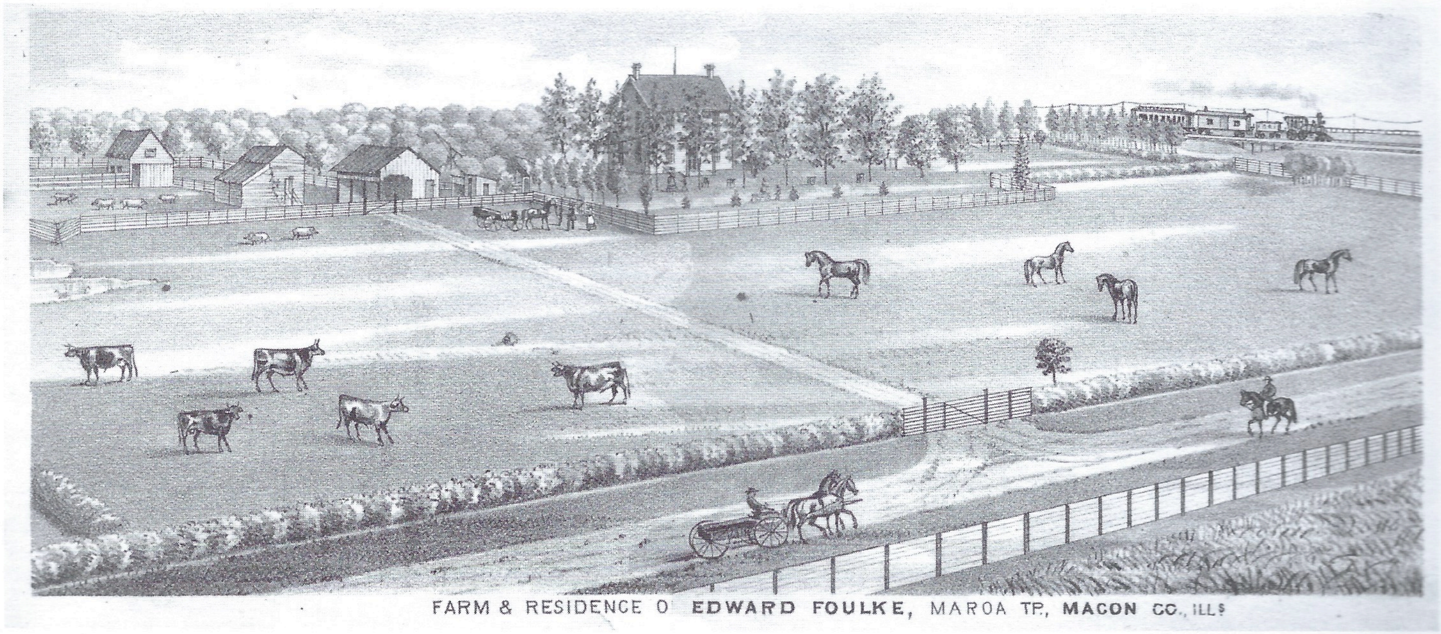
The Mississippii River was explored from the mouth of the Wisconsin south to mearnly the mouth of the Arkansas River. Fearing to go further south and encoutner possible capture by the spanieards, and having reached the decision tha the mouth of the Mississippi was not far distant, the party turned back and began their ascent. The return journey reached Lake Michigan by way of the Illinois River and the Des Plaines-Chicago portage. Father Marquette went to Green Bay and remianed there, and it was there he made this map. Jolliet continued on to Montreal. Mear Montral, all of his papers were lost in a river accident from which he barely escaped with his life. Father Marquette's map is the only extant autograph record of the voyage down the Mississippi by one of the participants. It was first made known by John G Shea in 1852.

The names inscribed on the said map are not those of Indian villages, but represent, as explained on the map itself the "nom des Indiens dans les terres" (i. e. name of the Indians in the hinterlands). Thence the name "Maroa" on the Marquette map stands for the hunting territory of the Maroa Indians or rather the "Tamaroa"

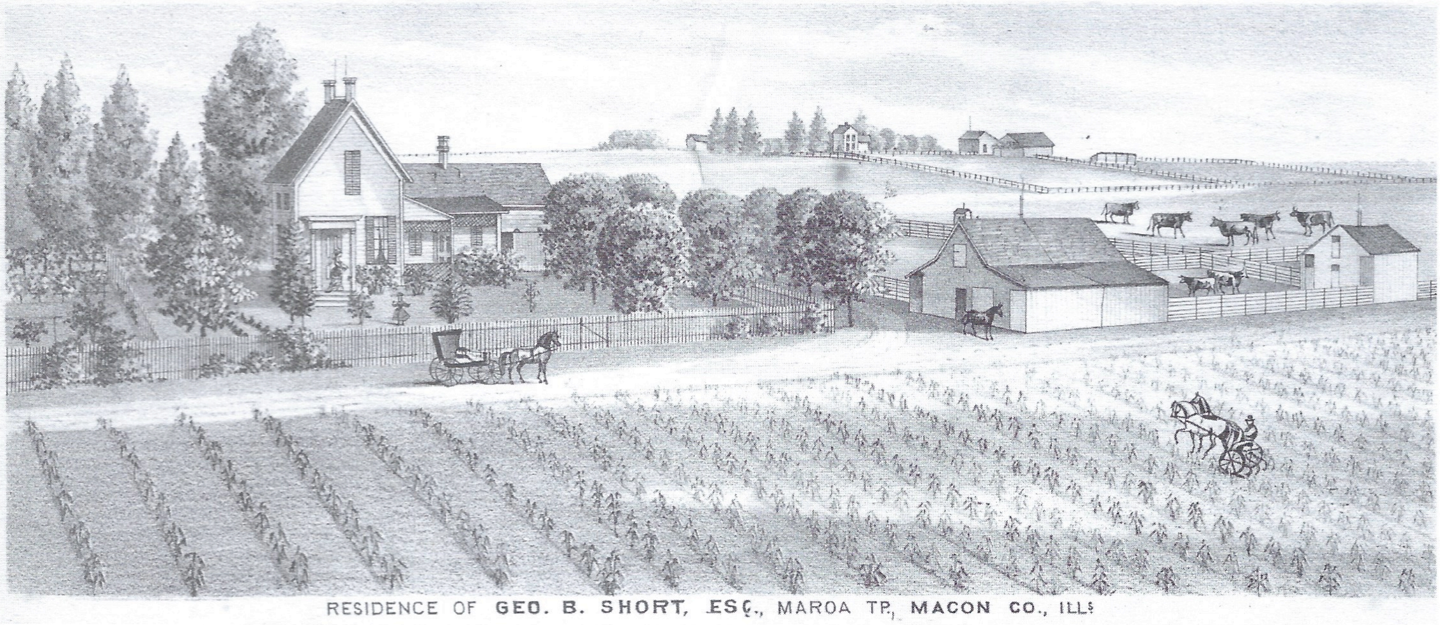
It appears certain, beyond all doubt, that the word "Maroa" is derived from Tamaroa, one of the tribes of the Illinois or Illiniwek Confederacy. At any rate, Maroa belonged to the Confederacy. At the time of Marquette's voyage in 1673, the Tamaroa were living on the Mississippi about the mouths of Missouri and Illinois rivers. They apparently claimed a territorial strip from the Belleville-St. Louis-Alton area northeast or E.N.E. across Illinois.

It does seem likely that the village of Maroa was named for the tribe of the Illinois, though probably not for any particular Indian village. It is hard to believe the tradition that the early settlers put a lot of letters of the alphabet in a hat and came out with the name of "Maroa," when it is shown on the Marquette map made in 1673-1674. It also seems likely that the person who named the Depot was familiar with the map name, as there are other towns in Illinois along the Illinois Central Rail Road who's depot names were full Indian tribe names (Kaskaskia, Kankakee).

The above information was obtained from Mr. John W. Hobbs, Springfield, Illinois; Mr. Thorne Deuel, Director of the Illinois


FARM & RESIDENCE O EDWARD FOULKE, MAROA TP, MACON CO., ILLS

The Residence of Edward Foulke Maroa Township, Macon County, Illinois as depicted in the 1874 Atlas.
Drawing courtesy of Clinton Library local history section.


RESIDENCE OF GEO. B. SHORT, ESQ., MAROA TP., MACON CO., ILLS

The Residence of George B Short Esq. Maroa Township, Macon County, Illinois as depicted in the 1874 Atlas. Drawing courtesy of Clinton Library local history section.

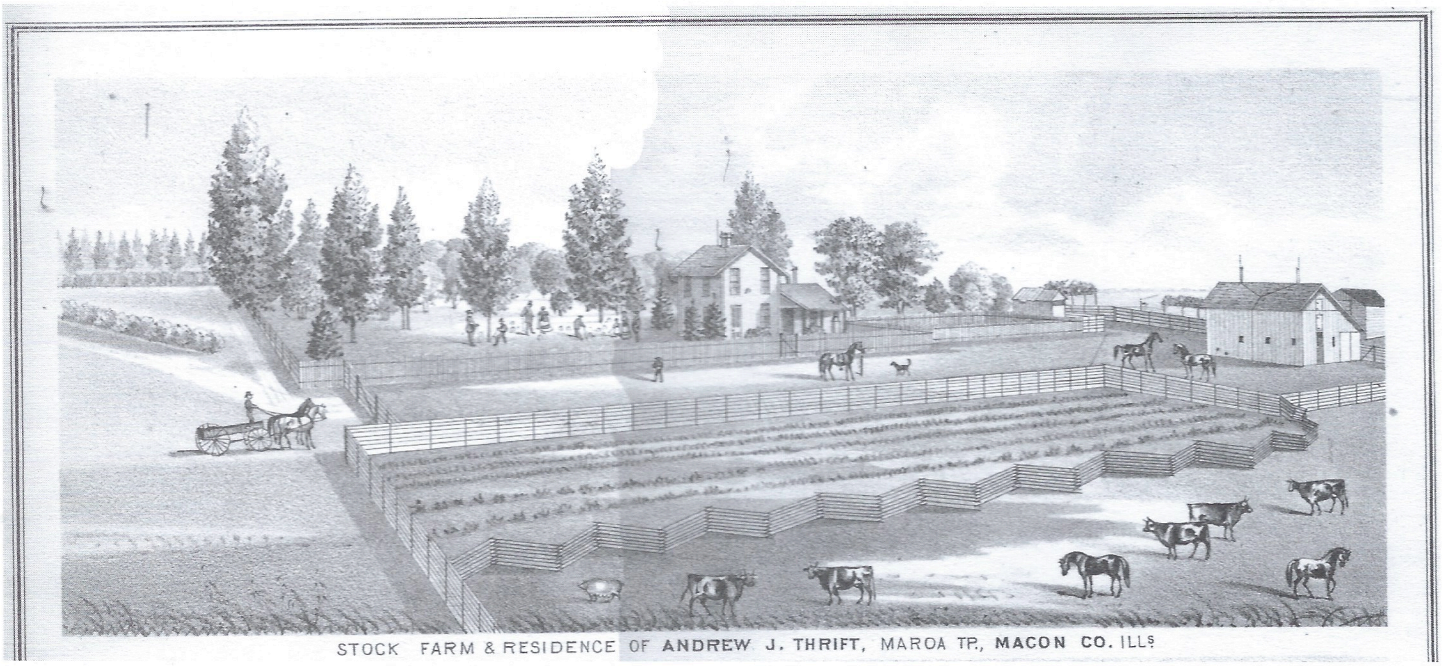
State Museum; Antoine Roy, Archivist, Provincial Museum, Quebec, Canada, and Monsieur I'abbe Honorius Provost, Assistant Archiviste, Seminaire de Quebec, Quebec, Canada.

The copy of the map located at the State Museum in Springfield, Illinois can be found on Plate V, Marquette's map of 1673-1674. Part I, Vol. II Scientific Paper Series is listed as Indian Villages of the Illinois Country.

MAROA

Deep in the heart of the Prairie
In a spot graced by God,
Lies the beautiful town of Maroa
In the land of the goldenrod.
Her song is the laughter of children,
Her hope is her daily toil,
Her faith is the spirit of brotherhood,
Her Godsend, the good black soil.
Always and always she'll be there
For Maroa will never die
The jewel in the heart of the corn belt
With eyes toward God in the sky.
By Arthur Wayne Gray

Map on opposite page found by
John W. Hobbs. Springfield, Illinois.


STOCK FARM & RESIDENCE OF ANDREW J. THRIFT, MAROA TP., MACON CO. ILLS

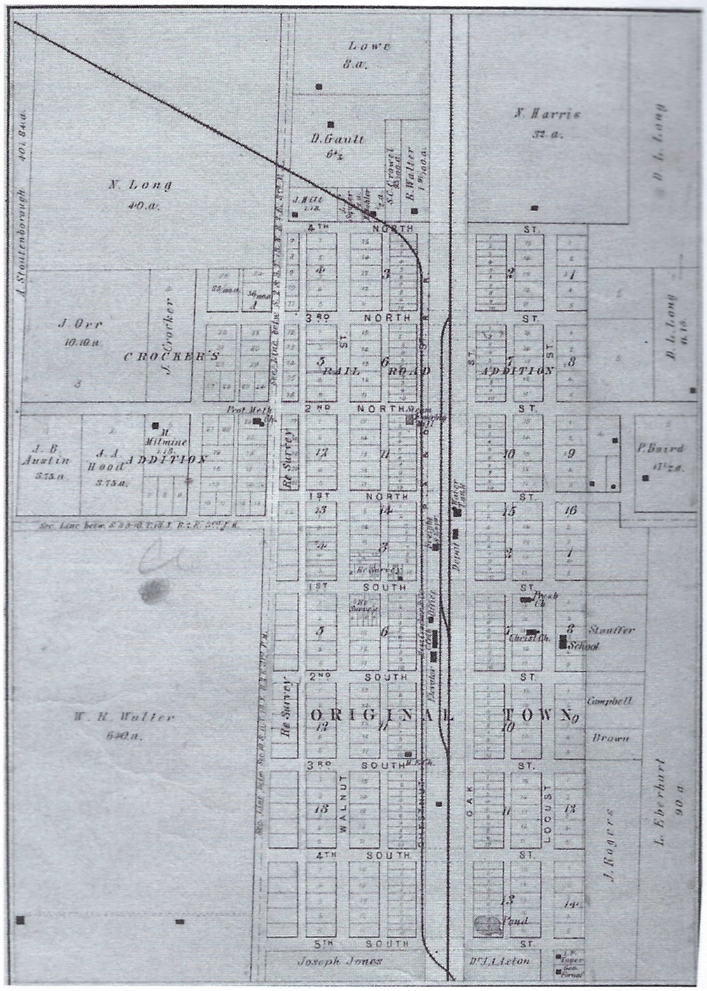
Stock farm and Residence of Andrew J. Thrift, Maroa Township, Macon County, Illinois

MAROA TOWNSHIP HISTORY

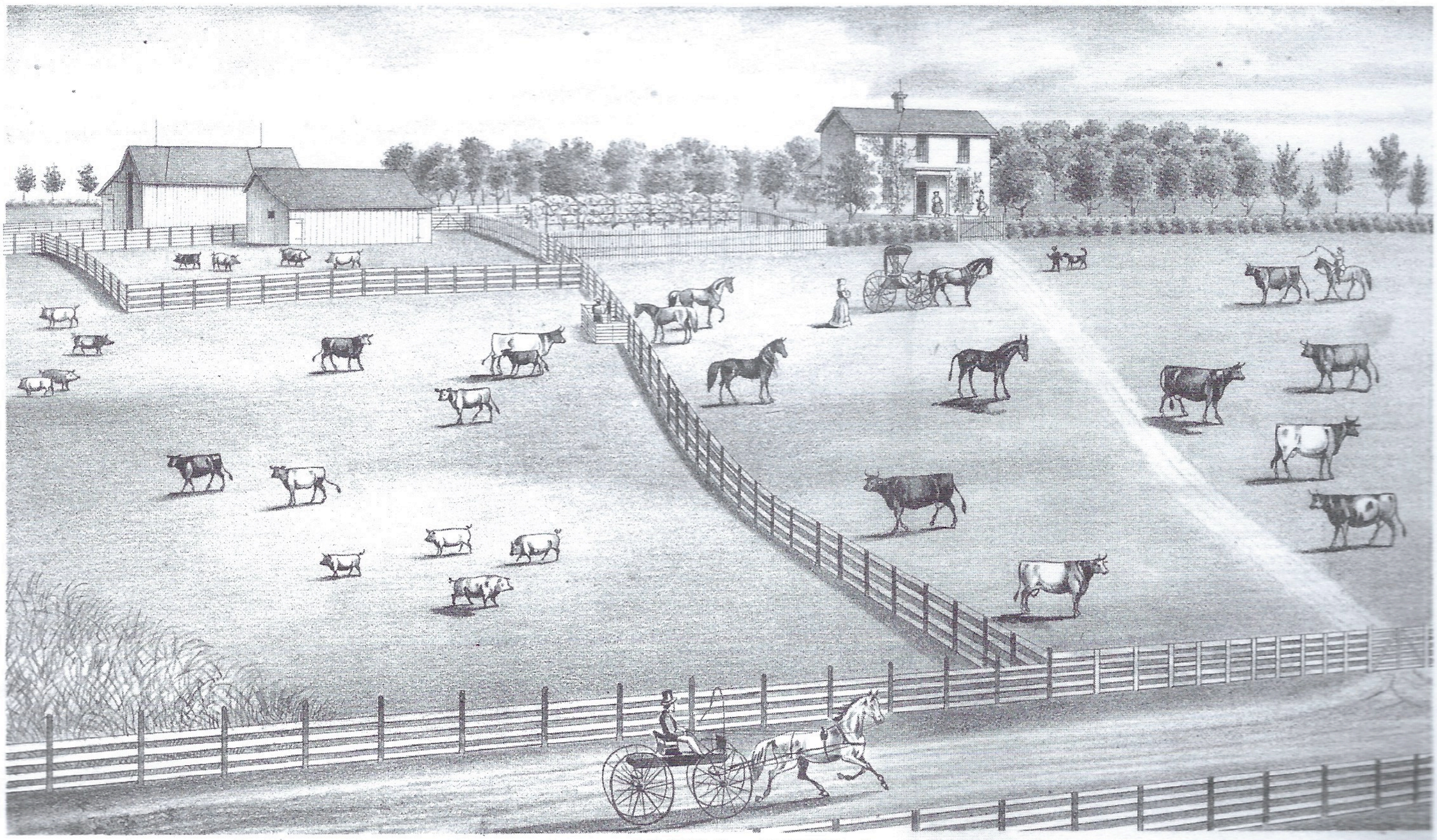
Maroa township had its first settler in 1839, but it was not until in the 50's that settlers began to arrive in numbers. James Pettyjohn was the first to come. He arrived from Kentucky in 1839 and located in Section 5. The first land entered in the township was a tract of 30 acres in Section 7 entered by Alfred Downen September 6, 1836. Thomas M.Geddis was the next to enter land, selecting tracts in Section 6.

Among the early settlers were Garrett J. Schenck and Joseph Hilt of Ohio, Joseph S. Clough of Morgan county, the three Gray brothers, Robert, John and George' Milton P. Funk, John M Foulkes, Edward Foulkes, John S. Parker, William Cooper, Dr.. J. W. Thayer, Samuel and William Potter, M. Friedman and William F Crawford, most of whom came in the 50's. Andrew J. Thrift came in 1864. John Longstreet came in 1862. George B. Short and Frederick W.Miller arrived in 1863. W. J. Compton came in 1866. Bazel Cooper, son of William Cooper, lived to see the day when he was the only person left in the township who had been there in 1855. Bazel Cooper drove one of the teams on the family journey to Macon county from Indiana.

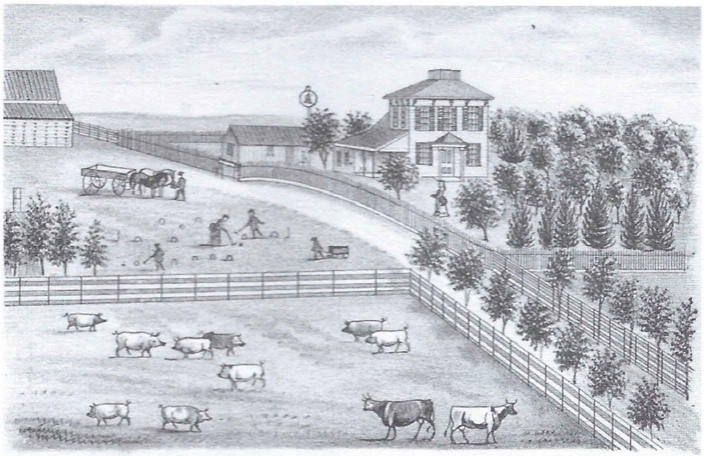
After the Illinois Central RailRoad was built through the township, the town of Maroa was laid out by the Associated Land Company, and the railroad company platted an addition known as the Railroad addition to Maroa. In 1854 a passenger depot was erected and John Crocker became the first agent, continuing in the position until 1866. Maroa was incorporated as a village March 7, 1867, Job A. Rice being the first president of the board


Lowe
8.a.
N. Harris
32 a.
D. L. Long
D. Gault
N. Long
40.a.
A. Stoutenborough
J. Orr
J. Crocker
CROCKER'S
RAIL ROAD ADDITION
4TH NORTH ST.
3RD NORTH ST.
2ND NORTH ST.
1ST NORTH ST.
1ST SOUTH ST.
2ND SOUTH ST.
3RD SOUTH ST.
4TH SOUTH ST.
5TH SOUTH ST.
J. B. Austin
J. A. Hood
H. Milmine
ADDITION
Re Survey
P. Baird
Depot
Stauffer
School
Campbell
Brown
ORIGINAL TOWN
W. H. Walter
640.a.
WALNUT
OAK
LOCUST
J. Rogers
L. Eberhart
90.a
Pond
Joseph Jones

1875 Plat of Maroa



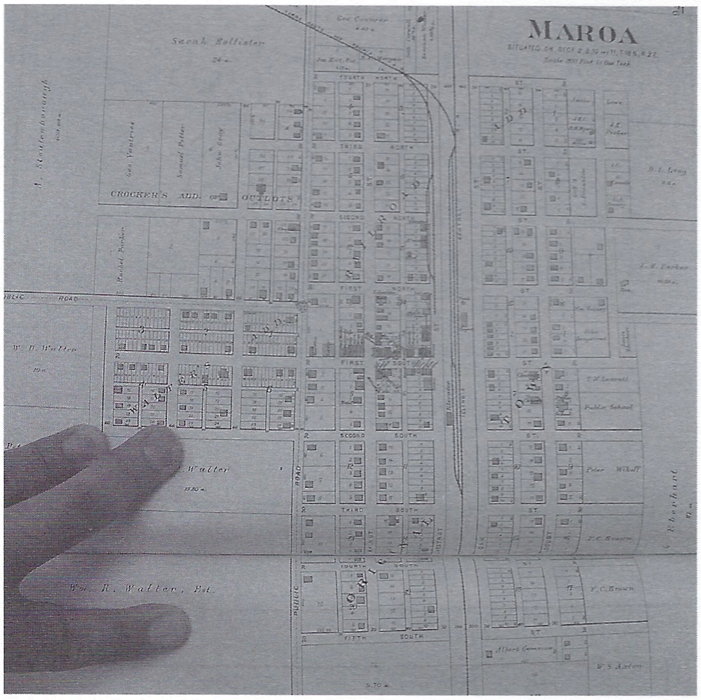
STOCK FARM & RESIDENCE OF **JOSEPH JONES**, Esq. MAROA, ILLINOIS.



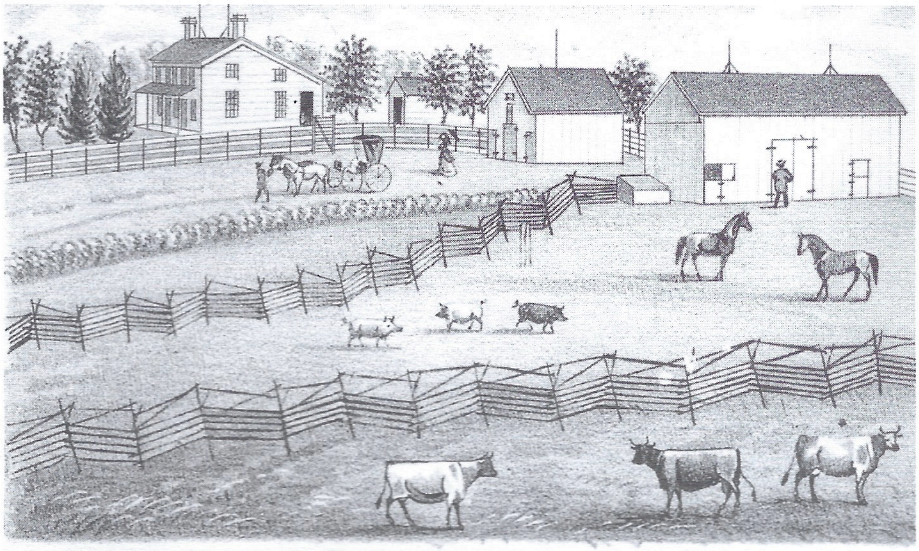
RESIDENCE OF J. W. FAWKES, MAROA TP., MACON CO., ILLS

of trustees. On April 8, 1889, Maroa was incorporated as a city.

John Crocker, native of New Hampshire, came to Maroa from Jacksonville. He was not only the first station agent, but was first postmaster, first banker, and first lumber and grain merchant. He also was one of the founders of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Crocker died in 1879. His son and grandson have followed him in Maroa Business circles.



Note this 1900 era plat map still showed the east - west streets named First south, second south, and First north, and second north and so on. Is your house on the map?



RES. OF ROBERT PARKER, MAROA TP., MACON CO., ILLS

Garrett J. Schenck (Skank) in 1855 erected the first house in Maroa. It was used also as a store, and then was enlarged and became the Schenck House, which for many years was a popular hotel. The house stood on the site now occupied by the Presbyterian church.

M. Friedman built a house and store in 1857. He was in business there many years, and was succeeded by his son-in-law, William Moser.

William F. Crawford erected the first house on what was afterwards knows as the Bloomington road.

The Prairie Hotel was erected in 1858 by William Greer.
The first grain elevator was built around 1860

Sims
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Home Building Center

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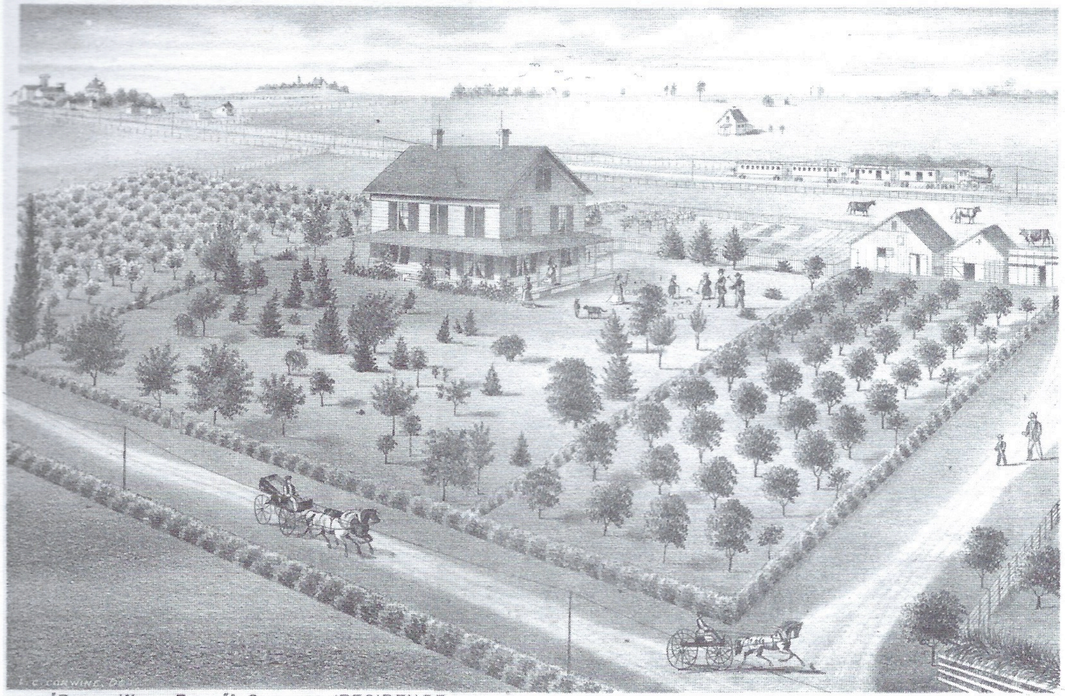


"BIRCH WOOD PLACE" & COUNTRY RESIDENCE OF JASON ROGERS, DRY GOODS MERCHANT, ½ MILE SOUTH OF MAROA, ILL.

by Mr. Ives and later sold to Jon Walker. IN 1865 a steam flour mill was built by Tylee and George E. Conover. Later an addition, used as an elevator, was erected. The flour mill afterwards was discontinued.

The first justice of the peace in the township was Milton Funk, named in 1855. Other early justices were John Crocker, Squire Ross, Joseph Jones, John B. Carey, C. C. Crandall, and Henry E. Kent. Dr. Smith was the first physician, coming in 1850. Other early physicians were Dr. J. W. Thayer, Dr. Josiah Brown, Dr. L. Tozer, Dr. C. A. McLean and Dr. J. H. Axton. Dr. McLean's son, Dr. W. T. McLean, followed him in the profession and has continued his practice for about fifty years.

The first birth in Maroa township was that of Charlotte Pettyjohn, who was born February 10, 1852. The first death was that of John H. Pettyjohn, August 15, 1852. The first marriage was that of Joseph Garrett and Mary Pettyjohn, who were married in 1856 by Rev. George Clifton.

MAROA MILLS
P.A. & D. R.R.
P.A & D.R.R.

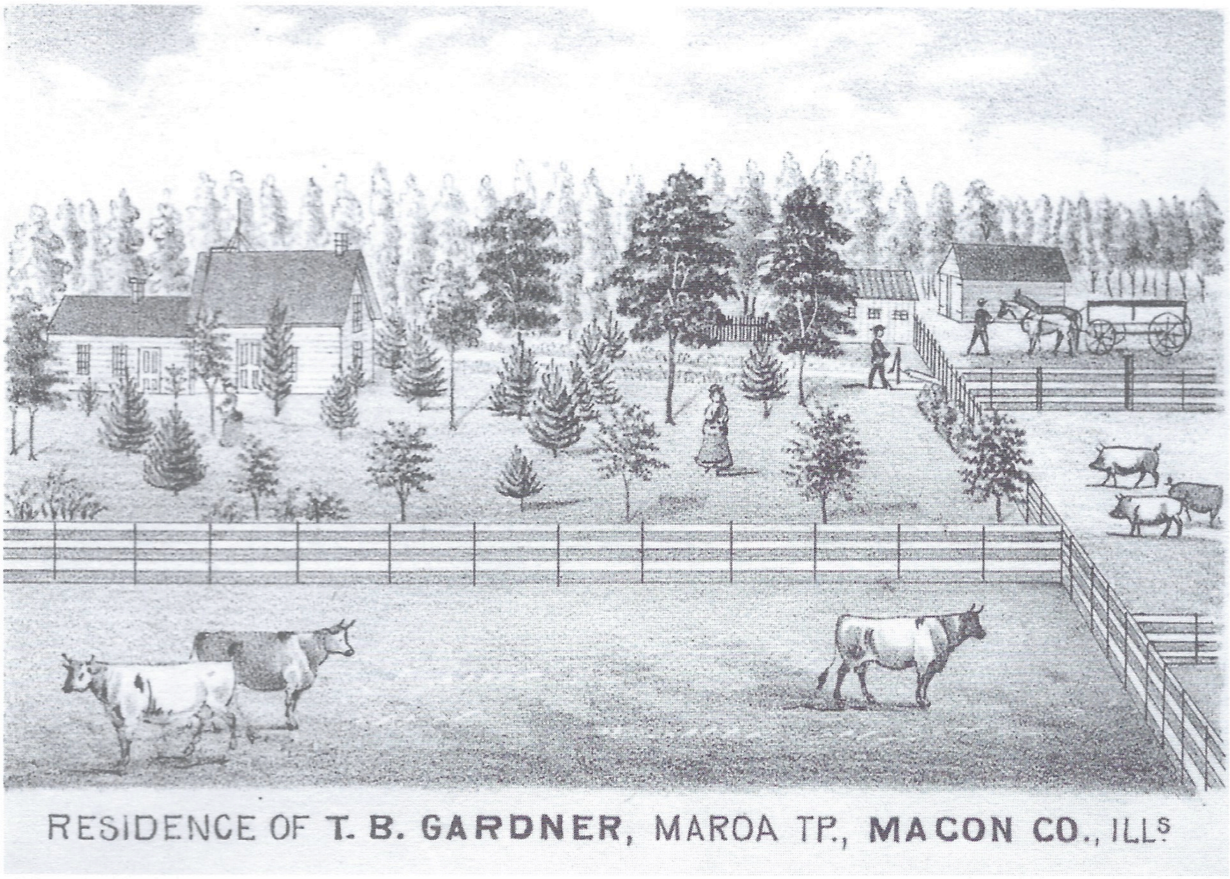
MAROA MILLS, MAROA, MACON CO., ILLS.
W J. COMPTON, PROPRIETOR.

Two fraternal orders organized lodges in Maroa in 1865. The lodges were Maroa lodge, 454, A.F and A.M. and Maroa lodge 314 I.O.O.F. Other fraternal organizations came in later years.

The first bank in Maroa was established in 1867 by John Crocker. It is still in business (in 1930) known as the Crocker & Co. bank.

The first newspaper in Maroa was The Times, started in 1867 by John Sharp. The Tablet and The Tribune also made their appearance in early days. Then came The News, started by Henry B. Funk. The Budget was founded in 1876. It later became The Messenger. Another paper called The Times was founded in 1886 by T. C. Grady. The two papers which survived, The Times and The News were consolidated in 1903.

Thomas Shaw taught the first school in the township in 1852. The first building erected for school purposes was put up in 1856



RESIDENCE OF T. B. GARDNER, MAROA TP., MACON CO., ILLS

William F. Crawford was the first supervisor from Maroa township, holding that position for five years.

One pioneer settler, active for many years, was Major Charles F. Emery. He served in the Civil war, and later engaged in real estate and loan business. In 1872 he founded the C. F. Emery & Co bank. He also started a bank and was in the loan business in South Dakota, but failure of crops and other reverses brought loss, and his bank was taken over by Crocker & Co. Major Emery never recovered from his losses, and the latter part of his life he spent as a rural mail carrier, being the first carrier on Route 2 out of Maroa. He died in 1911.

on "The Ridge", two and a quarter miles west of Maroa. Alvin Woodward was the first teacher there. Several years later a building was erected in Maroa, and the first teacher there was Robert Collins. In 1866 a brick schoolhouse was constructed, and later, a high school building was erected. This high school was torn down in 1915, when the present day structure was erected.

On January 30, 1859, Presbyterians met in the railroad station an organized a church. Services were held at the station for several months. In 1868 a frame house of worship was erected on the site now occupied by the Christian church. This building was sold in 1911, when the present brick church building was erected at the corner of Main and Walnut in 1911.

A Methodist Episcopal church was organized at Belle Prairie in 1857, and moved to Maroa in 1860. A house of worship was erected in 1867 on the site of the present parsonage. In 1892 the congregation built a new church wwhich was used until it was destroyed by fire in 1912. Then the present church house was constructed.

The Center Ridge Christian church in Section 32 is one of the oldest country churches. It was organized in 1867 by L. A. Engle and J. B. Millison.

There have been several other rural churches, where services afterwards were discontinued. One old church building, not now in use, still stands in the Ridge cemetery (in 1930).

From 1880 to 1888 major Emery served as a member of the state board of equalization.

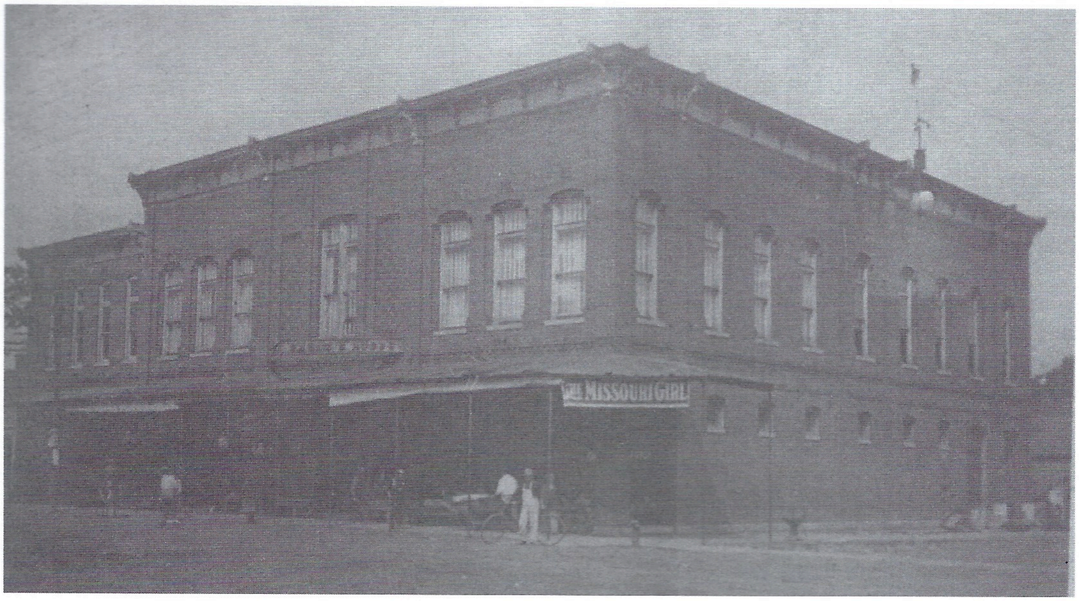
Maroa township has had many progressive citizens. Among the early families have been the Stoutenboroughs, Bennetts, Wendlings, Bairds, Rays, Marshs, McCanns and many others who have contributed to the progress of the township. Three citizens, Jason Rogers, John H. Crocker and Thomas N. Leavitt, have been honored by election to the state legislature. Maroa has grown to be the lartest town in Macon county, outside of Decatur in 1930. Its population in 1930 ws 1,154.

From Centennial history of Decatur and Macon County compiled by Mabel E Richmond in 1930.

TIDBIT

What I am looking forward to is everyone coming back to the community. I think that will be interesting.

Denise Carter Sesquicentennial committee.

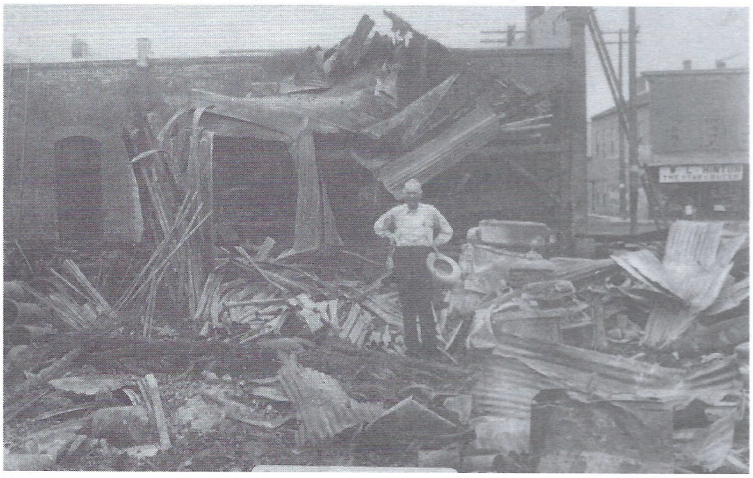


from Left to right: Linville hardware store, Cordell Funk - drugstore, Theatre, upstairs- Masonic Lodge cir 1910. Photo courtesy of M&M Café

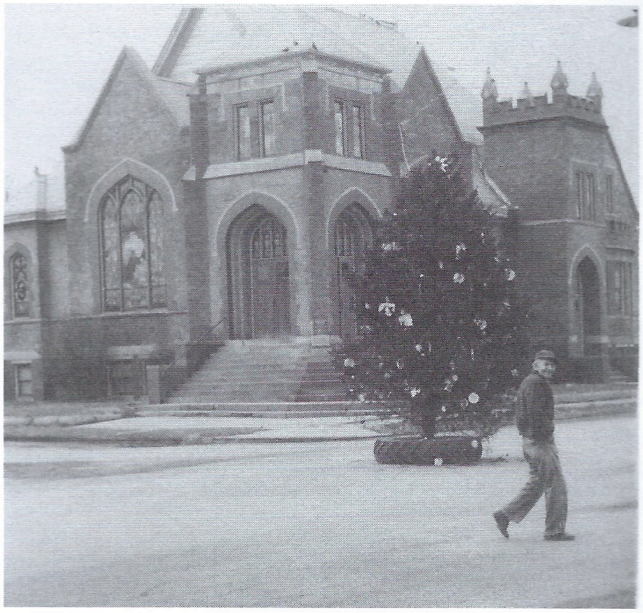
TIDBIT

My favorite things about Maroa are:

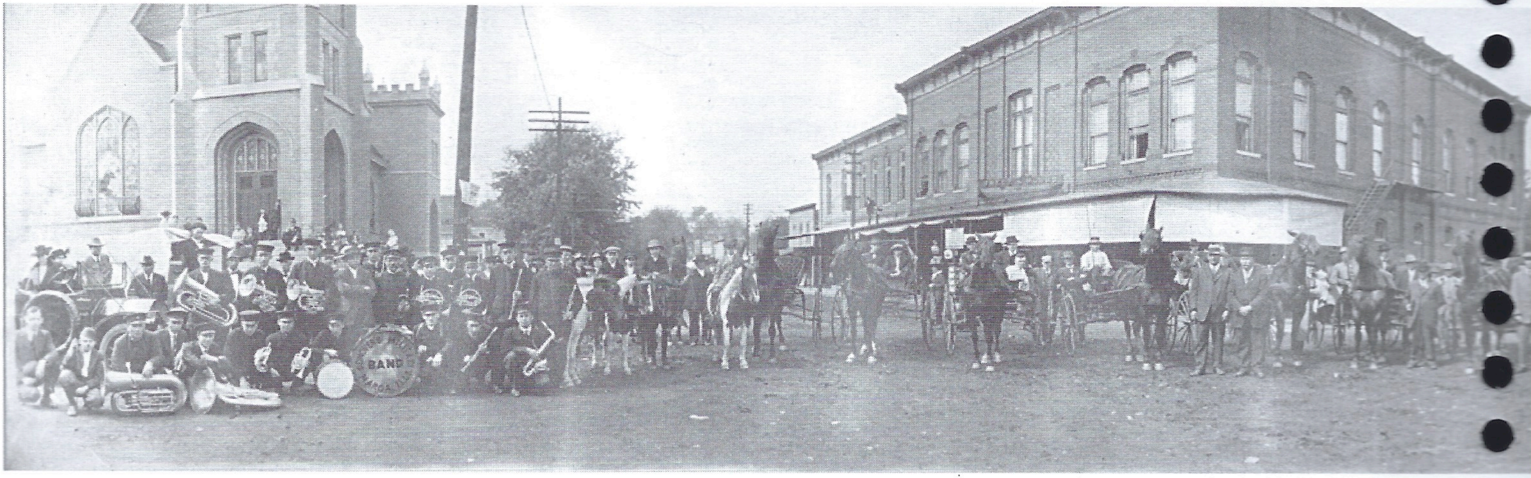
The smiling people I've known for years - the people who have supported each other in good times and sad times.
Ruth Ann Wilson
Sesquicentennial committee member age 66



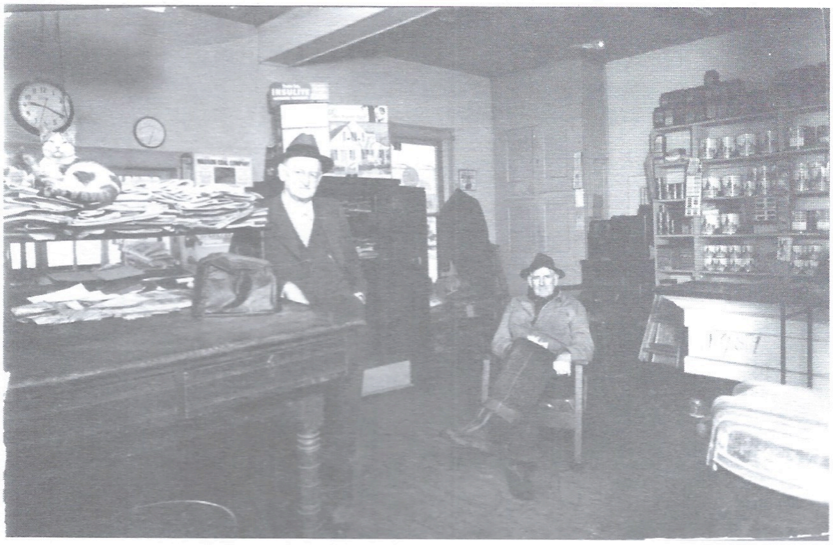
David Weilepp standing in the rubble of his storrage area of his hardware store which burnt in 1913. Photo courtesy of M&M Café



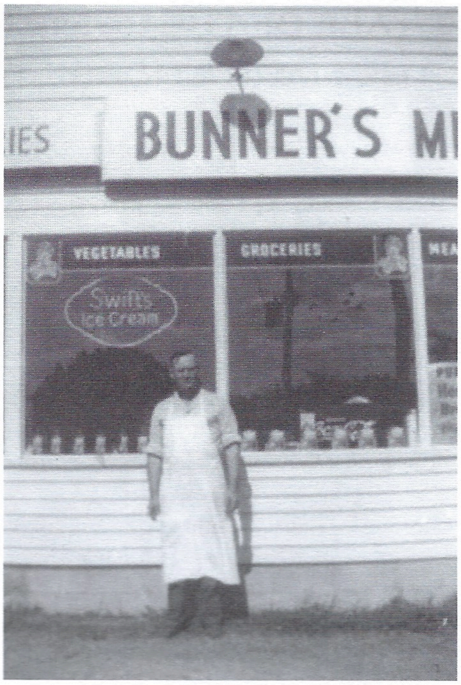
1959 Community Tree



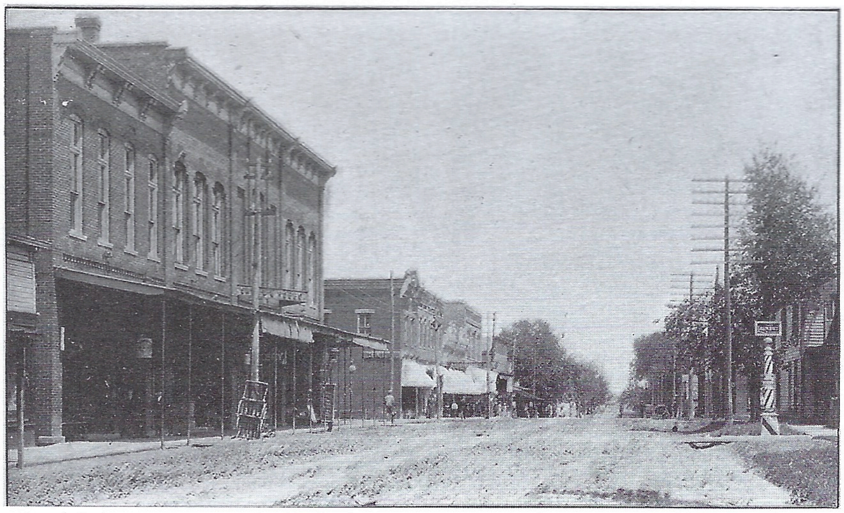
Different pictures of horse show on Main Street in 1915.



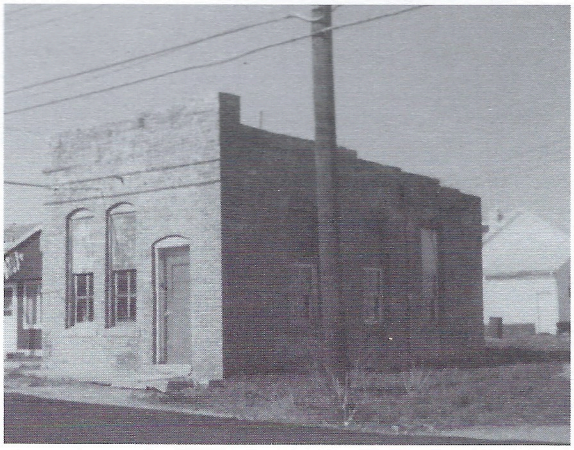
David Dewhirst (Left-son in law) and William Myers in their office. The building they are in is the Myers & Dewhirst building that in 2004 is one of the oldest buildings in Maroa. It resides on the North side of Main street to the east of Chestnut Street.


IES
BUNNER'S M
VEGETABLES
GROCERIES
Swift's Ice Cream

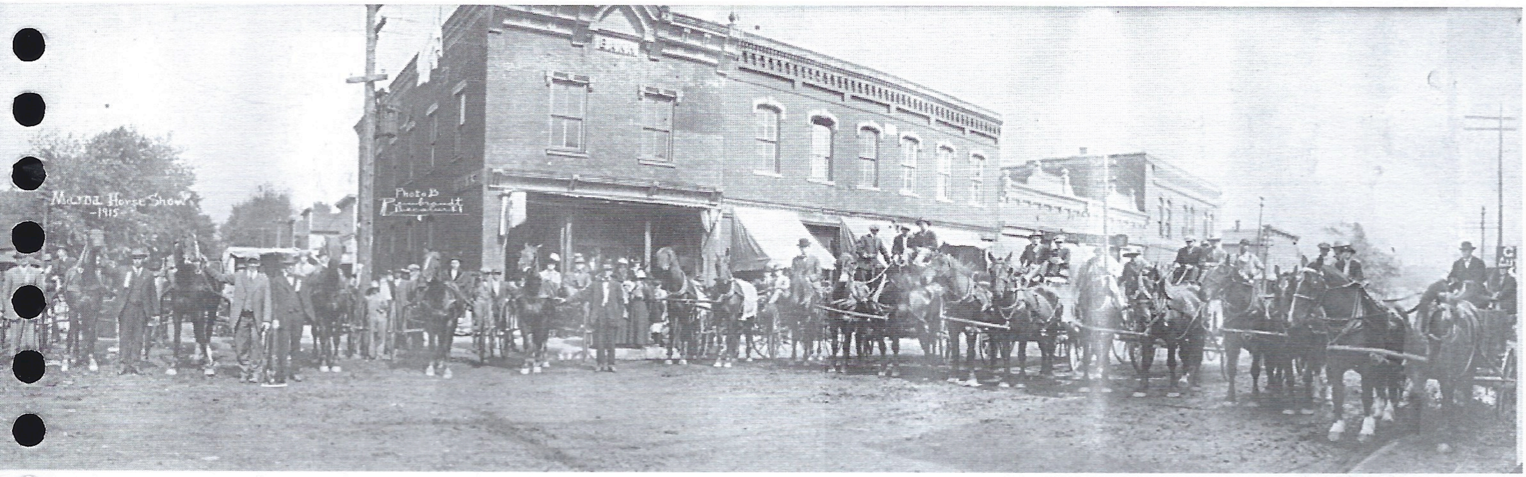
Dewey Bunner 1936 in front of Bunner's Market. Photo courtesy of M&M Café



A penny postcard of Maroa. The caption says "First South Street, Looking East, Maroa, ILL". This is the current Main street. Postcard cir 1900. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.



The first electricity building built by John Crocker Sr. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.


Maroa Horse Show 1915
Photo B

Different pictures of horse show on Main Street in 1915.

TALE OF THE EASTERNER AND THE MAROA HORSE THIEF GANG

This article appeared in the Decatur Herald June 12, 1932

"From the hill" said Samuel Braden, retired Maroa farmer, "you can see for miles. I've heard tell that it is the highest point in Macon County, or the surrounding counties either, for that matter".

The hill that Sam Braden, Sr. indicated lies three miles west of Maroa, known as the ridge, to residents of that vicinity. It extends from the church (the church stood in the southwest corner of the cemetery) and church yard, that takes its name from the hill, to the southwest, fully a mile.

The ridge, "highest point in macon county", was the lockout for the outlaw band according to legend.

There's a gully in the side of the hill, just south of the church there, that heads a draw. According to the stories hereabouts, when I came here in 1856, it's part natural and part not. The draw leads down to the stream that runs along the foot of the ridge. The stream has a gravel bottom that wouldn't show horse or cattle tracks. And that's the reason I guess that an old outlaw gang took the trouble to enlarge the gully.

"You see the gang could keep a look-out on top of that hill (the hill is directly south of the building setting on top of the hill to the east and south of the cemetery) and watch people approaching for miles around. This was all prairie and Maroa was just a railroad station and two log cabins. The "ridge gang" was probably here at least ten years before we settled here (probably about 1846)"

The leader of the gang dressed like an easterner - dressed like a gentleman with ruffled lace sleeves, long black hair that fell almost to the shoulders and had a sharply trimmed mustache and beard. He wore a pistol at either side and across his saddle bags was tied a heavy calibre rifle. He rode a spirited stallion.

The gang made their raids at dusk. They rode into settlements and selected the best horses, for the easterner would steal only the finest horse flesh, and hereded them away. By morning when a posse of angry settlers took up the trail they found that it lead invariably to the creek. In the gravel bed of the creek the horses' hoofs left no trail. They were led through the water to the branch that ran up to the spring in the side of the hill enlarging the natural gulley from no point, except the top of the ridge, can one see into the gully. It must have been an open secret among the settlers that the ridge gang quartered their spoils in the gully until they could be disposed of. But the marksmanship of the easterner seems to have counter-balanced any desire that the citizens might have had to reclaim their property.

The sheriff and the hastily organized posses of deputies are known to have visited the ridge on various occasions and they were cordially received. The easterner was a smiling, genial host. But somehow the law always came back empty handed.

Many of those who moved into Illinois in those days had been successful farmers in Ohio before coming here. They had farms in Ohio and usually sold them and packed their belongings into their wagons and drove west, carrying with them the gold they had received for their farms. "You will pardon me," the easterner would say in deepest humiliation and the mellowest of tones, "but I must bother you for your purse". As far as we know, no shot was ever fired by the ridge gang in a hold up.

For a long time the easterner paid visits to a large farm house north of Maroa and one night he took with him a saddled mare. When he rode away, a dark-haired, dark-eyed, girl rode beside him. The next day her parents declared that she had been kidnaped and a posse was organized to raid the ridge gang. But when they approached the ridge they saw no lockout and no lockout saw them. The cabins of the gang were empty.

The easterner had gone farther west. Perhaps he became one of the notorious bandits of the old west or perhaps he settled down in Iowa on a farm with the dark haired girl and exchanged his foppish clothing for overalls and his polished guns for plow handles.

But over night Macon county had lost its only bid for fame in the annals of the wild west of 90 years ago. (now it would be over 150 years ago)

TIDBIT

My brother and I attended Upper Ridge Country School until seventh grade and we will always remember the closeness of the children in our school. But in the seventh grade I had to go to "town school" which was a difficult transition. But it gave us more opportunities to learn - I remember the pep meetings and the snake dance at Homecoming, being in the marching band and how nervous I was at the music contests. So glad I attended a "small town school" where I knew everyone.

Ruth Ann Wilson Sesquicentennial committee member age 66

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je

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Complete Insurance Service

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(217) 428-3241

LOCAL LOPPING

From the Maroa Weekly Dateline Maroa, Illinois November 3, 1876

Those who think there is anything particularly funny in removing a printing office should have tried their muscle on our heavy presses and other fixtures on Tuesday and Wednesday. There is a great deal said now-a-days concerning the dignity of labor, but if there is any dignity about a man while sweating under the influence of a good, square two hundred pound lift, we have failed to discover it.

—

If, on next Tuesday, you are an American citizen, have been in the state one year, the county ninety days, and the town or township thirty days, and happen to be a man, you are entitled to vote once for one man for one office - except in the case of candidates for the Legislature. The law declares that three votes may be cast for one man; one and one half votes each for two men, or three votes for one man, for the office of Legislature.

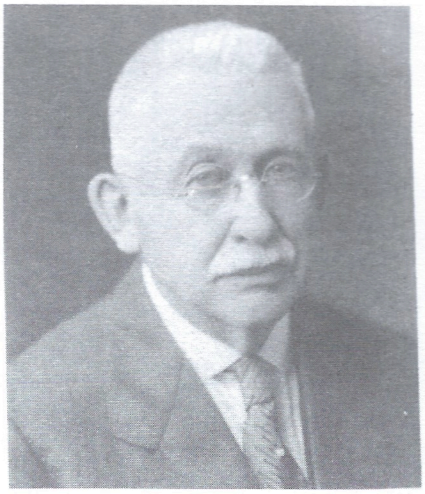
——

In order to give all the candidates of all the parties a "fair shake" we this week give their respective ticket. The Democratic ticket will be fond on the 6th page; Republican, on the 2d; Independent, on the 4th; and Prohibition on the 5th.

——

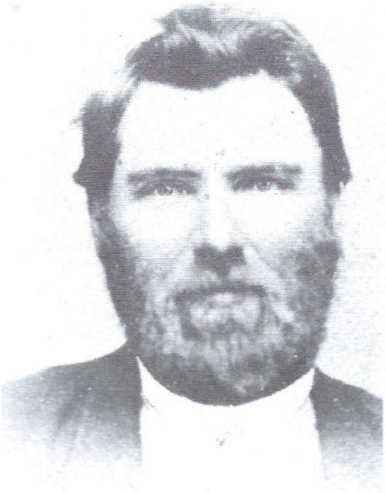
Elder Tyler, Prohibition candidate for legislator, has withdrawn from the track. Now if Mr. Carl would withdraw the regular nominees could engage in fair and square tussle, without any distracting "side issue".

William Baird (1821 - 1910) came from Cincinnati, Ohio, to Illinois in a covered wagon, locating near Kenney. He married Eleanor Cox and three daughters were born to them; Mary Ann, who married Gabriel Hutchison, Ella, who married James H Stoutenborough; and Lida, who became the wife of Bazel Cooper. Mr. Baird built the brick house just north of town on Wood street in 1867.

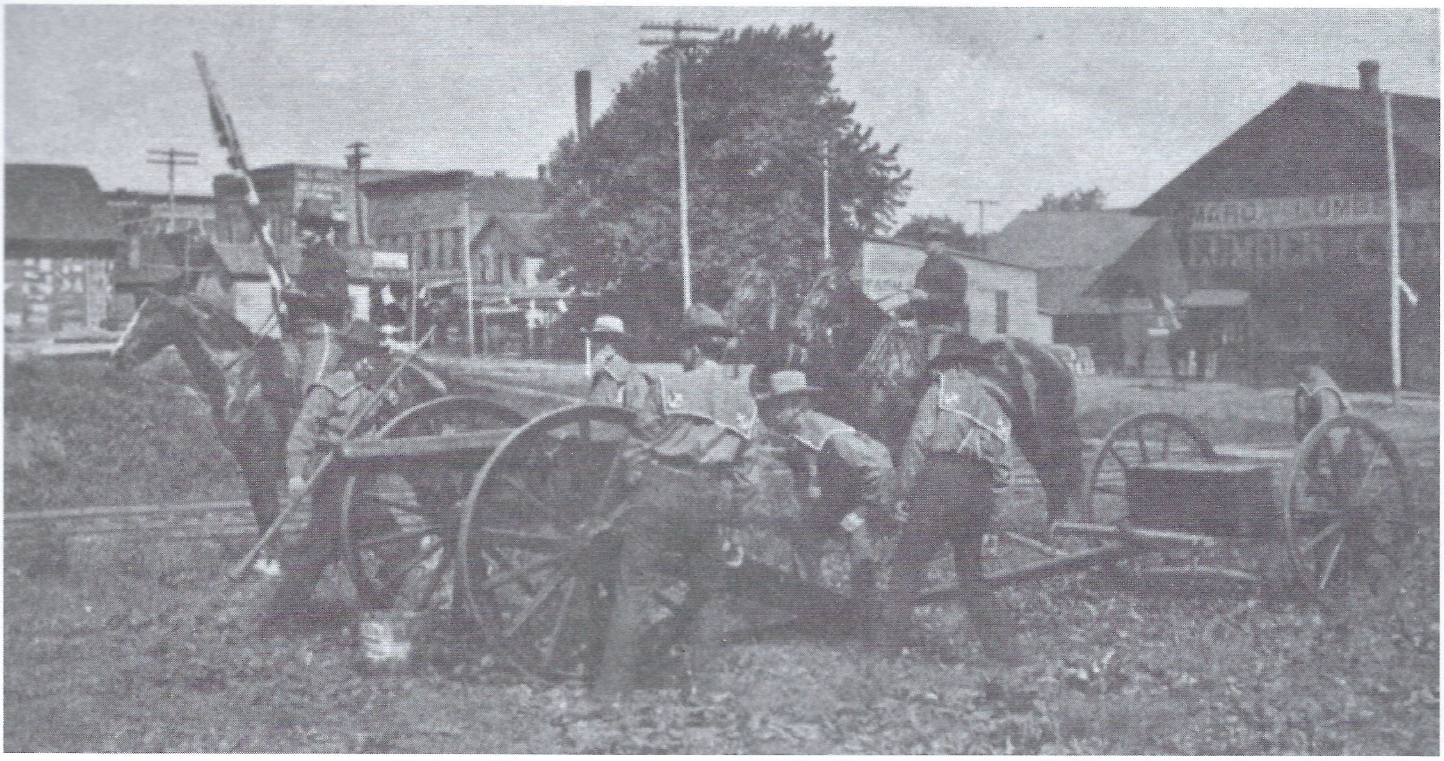


George Conover 1855 - 1937. In 1898 George Conover conceived the idea of starting a band in Maroa. You get to see the band in many of the pictures of the community during the turn of the century.

John Hoffman was born in Hesse Darnstadt, Germany, in 1843, and migrated with his parents to the Unites States in a sail boat when he was 10 years old. The family settled at Peoria, Illinois where the country was mainly owned by the Indians. In 1864 Mr. Hoffman married Dillay Louisans and two years later they moved to a farm east of Maroa, which they purchased from an Indian. Five children were born to this couple. Mrs.Hoffman died in 1895 and in 1900 Mr. Hoffman married Rena Allen.S



Benjamin Miller (1830-1889) came from Kentucky to Creek Twp., Dewitt County with his parents when one year old. File children were born to him and his first wife, Elizabeth Pledger. They were Joseph, George, Anna, Douglas, and Ruth. His second wife was Martha Pulliam. Their children were Chas. Y., Mary, Elizabeth and Ben S.

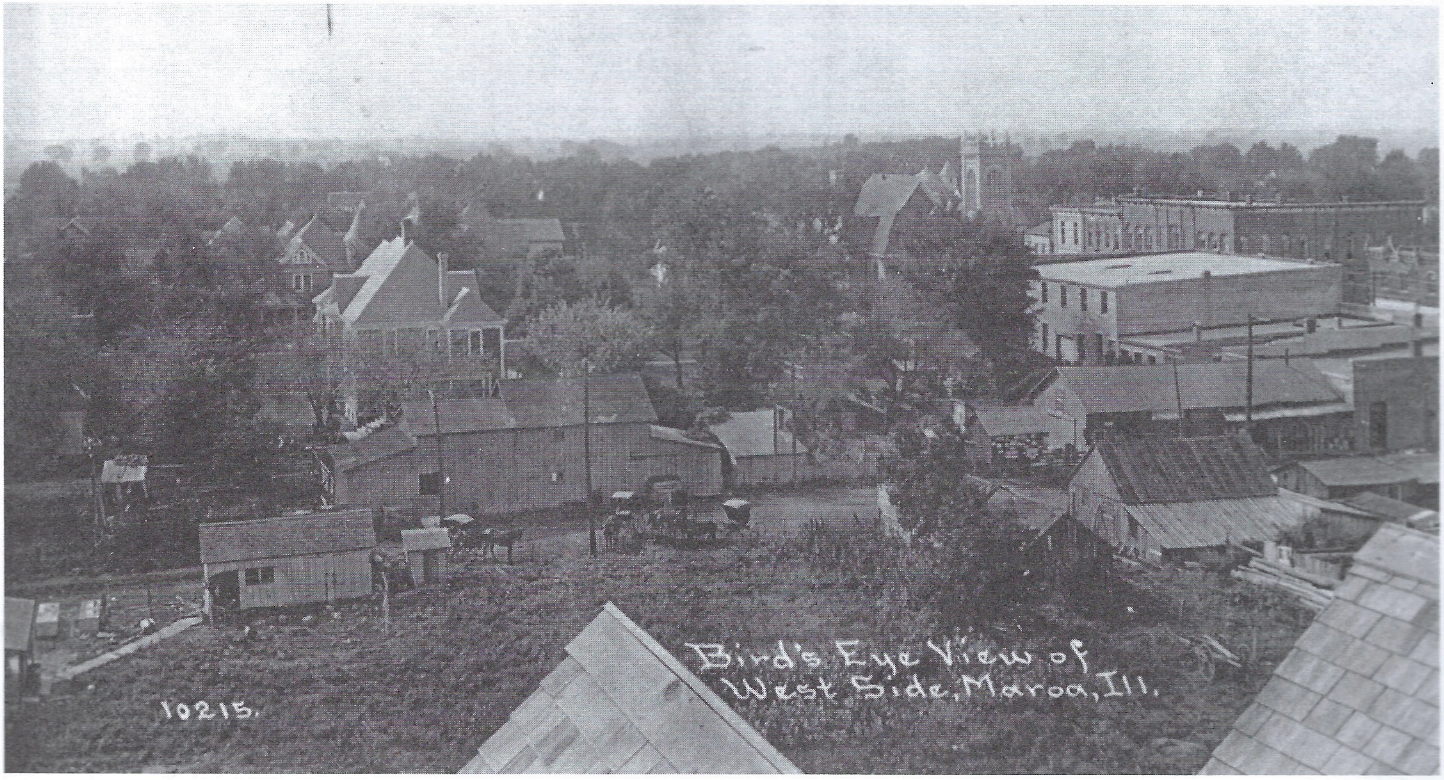


Cannon moved to the area near the railroad tracks. Current area is 200 block East Main Street

TIDBIT

As the Quilt Show Chairman, I was thrilled to see so many beautiful quilts brought in for display from so many citizens of Maroa.. The people that came in to view them were very impressed also. We had very old quilts and some more recent ones and also some that were 'in process'. We gave ribbons to the winners in five different catagories.

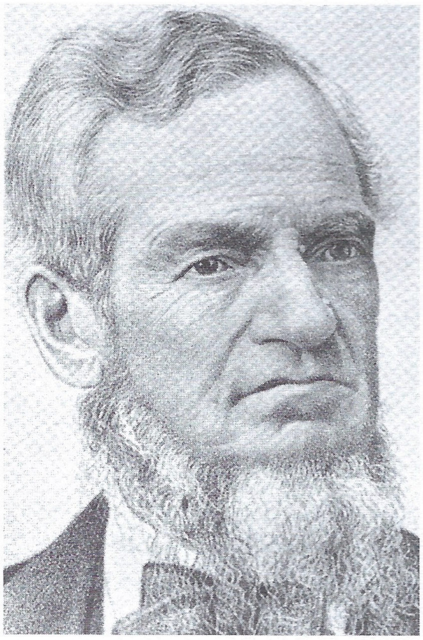
Joy F. Gardner, Sesquicentennial committee member, age 65,



A view from the grain elevator looking west. Note the horses and buggies in the street. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.

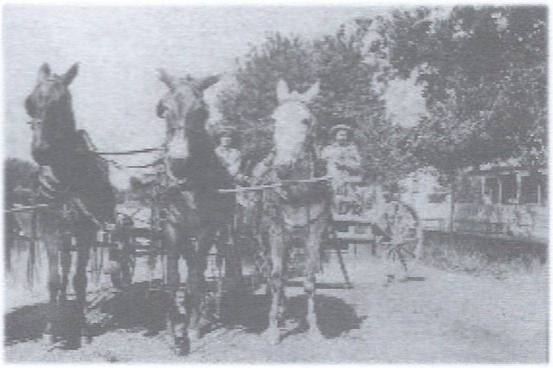
John Marsh was born in Warren County Ohio in 1823. At the age of 21 he married Henrietta Sherman and they became the parents of nine children. Four sons, who grew to manhood in the Maroa community, where Alfred, William, Jesse and John. As a young man, Mr. Marsh was a pump maker, making pumps by boring out logs by hand. He came to Illinois in 1850 and made the first public pumps in Springfield, Illinois, putting one on each side of the old State House Square. While in Springfield, he also made a pump for Abraham Lincoln. Mrs. Marsh died in 1862 and two years later Mr. Marsh married Mary Boyland. They moved to Maroa in 1866 where Mr Marsh engaged in the stock business with Jason Rogers. Later he bought a farm five miles east of Maroa and moved there, remaining until he retired in 1880, and moved back to town. He died in 1896.

John H Crocker was born in New Hampshire in 1829. He came to Illinois with his parents (John and Mary Crocker) and later became a civil engineer and was on Gen. Grant's staff of engineers during the early years of the Civil War. He married Louise Philbrook and in 1865 they came to Maroa. Mr Crocker was in the lumber and coal business until he entered the banking business with his father. He died in 1890.

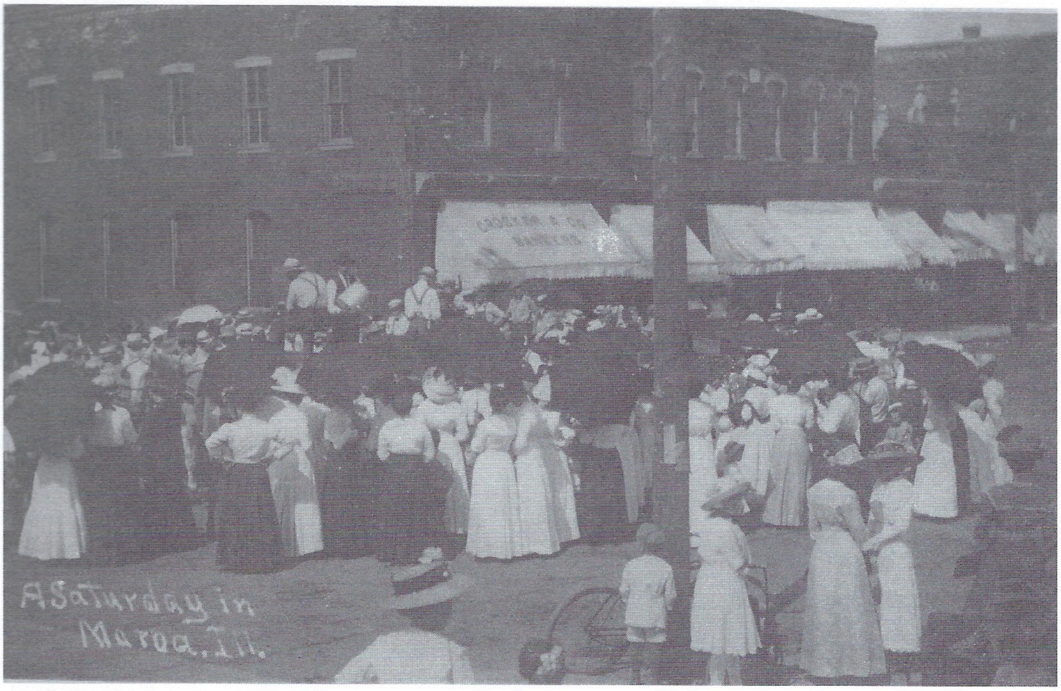


John Crocker 1854

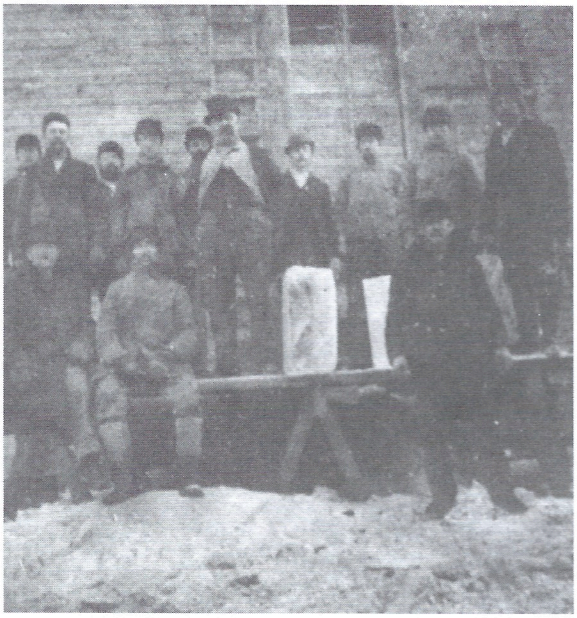
Charles Kinkaid was born in Zanesville, Ohio, in 1856 and his wife, Martha Jane Hamilton, was born in Dowagiac, Michigan, in 1857. Seven children were born to this union: Eva, Stanley, Cecil, Florence, George, Charlie, and Lorene. Both Mr. and Mrs. Kinkaid died in 1931.



Henry Barger maintained Macon County Roads (cir 1890).



A Saturday afternoon in Maroa at the corner of Main and Walnut Streets photo courtesy of M&M Café at 119 West Main



The Ice House and Crew

TIDBIT

Louise Gentle (McLean) Age: 108 in January 2000.

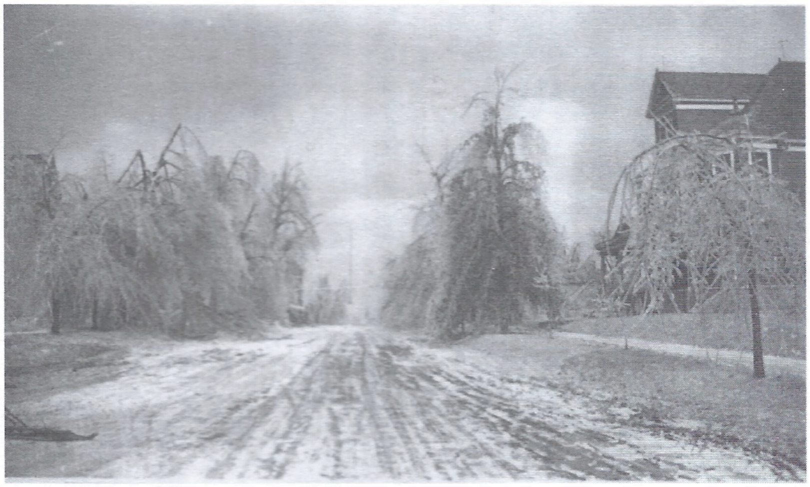
I taught school for one year at Maroa after graduating from the Lake Forest Ferry Hall Girls School. She remembers reaching in the new school at the south east corner of Main and Locust being the first one druing a fire drill to slide down the chute that was on the outside east side. The teaching job ended when she and George Gentle were married December 17, 1918, in Maroa. He was a farm advisor with the Soil Conservation Service. He died in 1984 shortly aft the couple had observed their 65th wedding anniversary.

TIDBIT

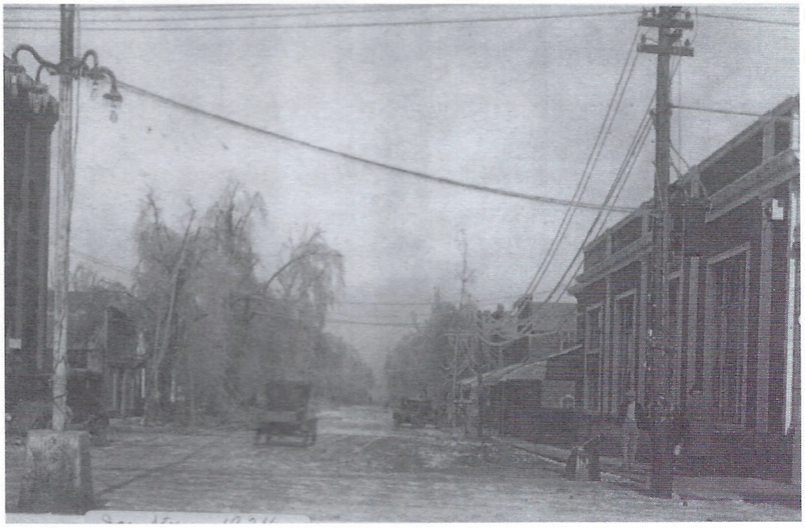
It was fun to be a part of the Porta-potti decorations contest as part of the Friends of the Library. And we won first place.!! They were all decorated very well and would be hard to choose which were the Winners.
Joy F. Gardner, Sesquicentennial committee member, age 65,

Rembrandt Studio
Decatur Ill

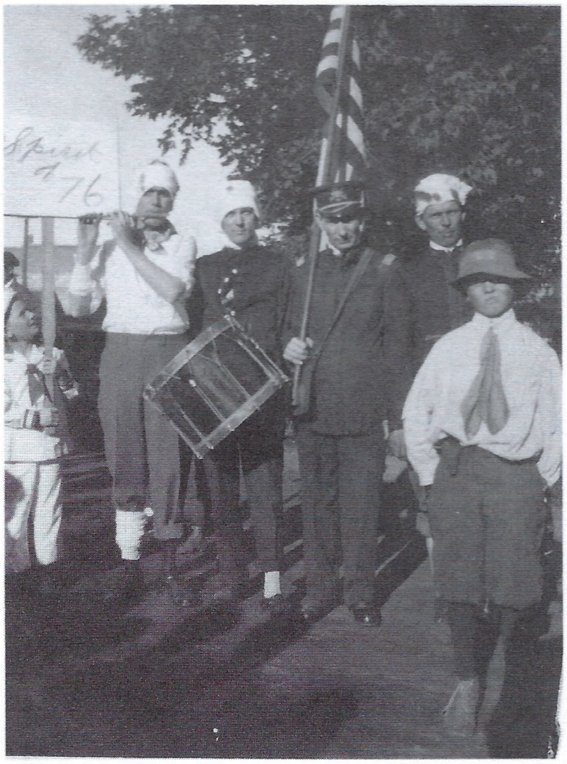
Horse Back Riding cir. 1900



Ice Storm 1924. Standing at the bank on Main Street looking down North Walnut Street. Photo courtesy of M&M Café



Picture of Ice Storm looking down Walnut Street Photo courtesy of M&M Café



This picture, taken in 1914 at the Fourth of July celebration in Maroa, represented the Spirit of '76. Pictured from left to right, Dick Crum (boy with sign), Arthur Coulter, furniture store owner and undertaker, Lee Kempshall, salesman for Schenck Cigar Co., Carry Crum, owner of Crum's Dry goods store. Hugh (Peggy) Wileff in hardware business, and Duwain Moyer, boy in front.

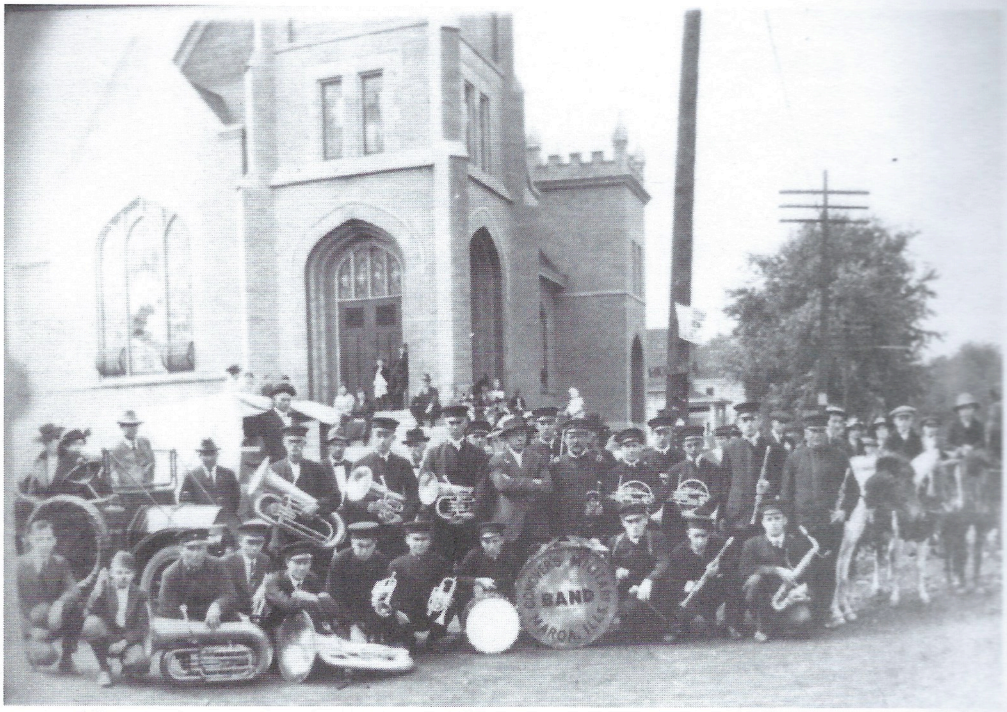
TIDBIT

Recall a story about life in Maroa

I remember when my dad died, we had so many people bring us food, and offer condolences. It was a warm feeling that one can only understand and appreciate by experiencing it. I pray that all of the people in town do get that feeling of our town's support during the times they need it.

Ray Ramirez DVM Sesquicentennial committee member age 43

CONOVER'S MILITARY BAND



The Conover Military band in front of the Presbyterian Church cir 1910.

In 1898, George Conover conceived the idea of starting a band in Maroa. He interested the citizens in the project, a stock company was organized and shares were sold to raise money for purchasing instruments. The stockholders elected a board of nine directors and they named the organization "Conover's Military Band." Mr. Conover was selected as business manager.

Professor C. P. Maxwell of Decatur was secured as Director of the band and for many years Thursday night concerts were played on the main street of Maroa during the summer. Winter concerts were played occasionally in the Opera House.

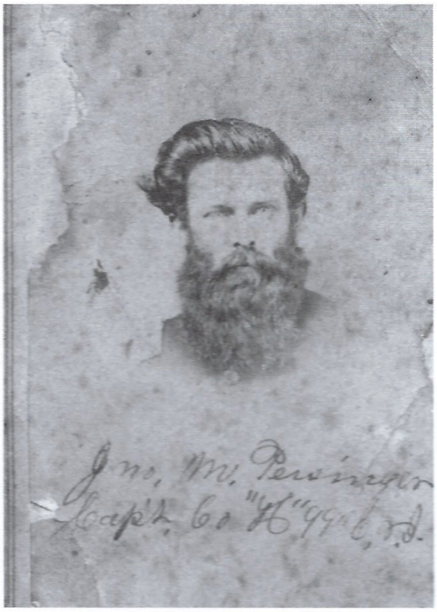
The band played engagements throughout the State and was always available for special events in Maroa. After Prof. Maxwell's retirement, succeeding Directors were Robert Walters, Oscar Schwartz, Rex Reese, all of Decatur, and then our own Sam Braden, Jr., who had long been a member of the band and its cornet soloist.

After the death of Mr. Conover in 1937, Prof. Braden managed the band for two years to round out its forty years of service and entertainment. During those years there had been more than 150 members in the band. Two of them, at least, deserve special mention. Leonard Braden started playing at the age of ten and was a cornet soloist at sixteen. Robert D. Bolen, Sr. with his slide trombone, was the only charter member who remained active in the band throughout its entire forty years.

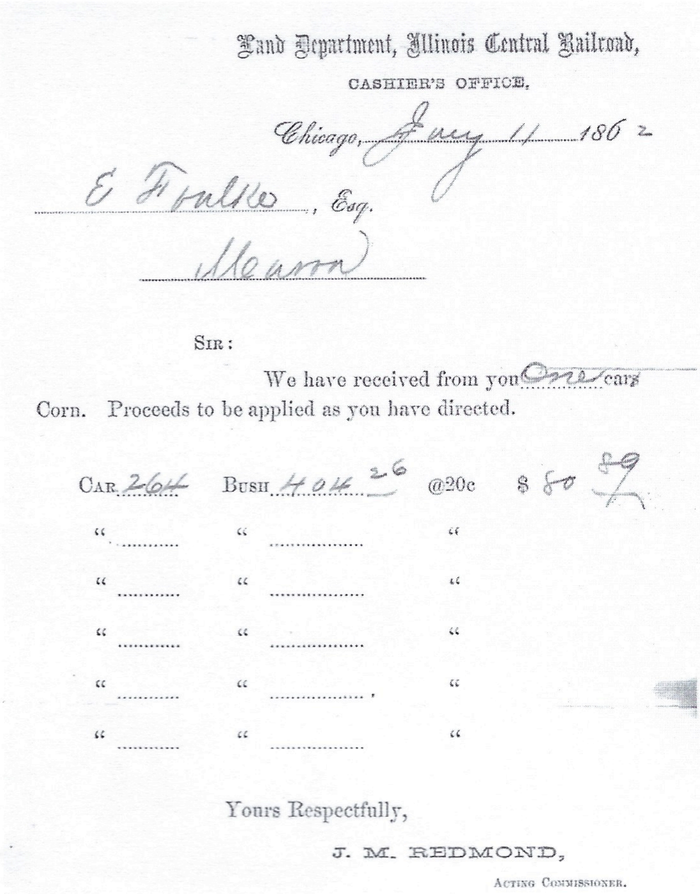
CONOVER'S MILITARY BAND IN 1898
Back Row: Prof. Crocker, Norman Stoutenborough, Louis Sterling, Sam Jump, Verven Braden, Clarence Leach, Ed Bennett, Ben Taylor, Velma Davis, John McLean, George Conover, manager. Middle Row: Will Biddle, Tom Hardin, Robert Bolen, Sr., Arthur Bennett, Bert Morgan, Rolla Persinger, Albert Kempshall, Lee Kempshall, John Ferree.
Front Row: Prof. C. P. Maxwell, director, Charles Stoutenborough, George Partelow, Charles Bosler.

Titus Query (1850-1914) was born in Ashland County, Ohio and came to Illinois at the age of five. He married Adeline Bennett and they lived east of Maroa. They were the parents of Eva (Donnelly), Sylvia (Doyle), Mahala, Calvin and Oscar.

Residence of George Conover 313 West Washington. One among the Fine Homes in the City. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.



An 1860 picture of John M Persinger, Captain Co(mpany) H 99th Ohio. He was one of the first settlers in Maroa coming here after his duties in the Civil War.



Land Department, Illinois Central Railroad,

CASHIER'S OFFICE.

Chicago, July 11 1862

E Foulke, Esq.

Macon

SIR:

We have received from you One cars Corn. Proceeds to be applied as you have directed.

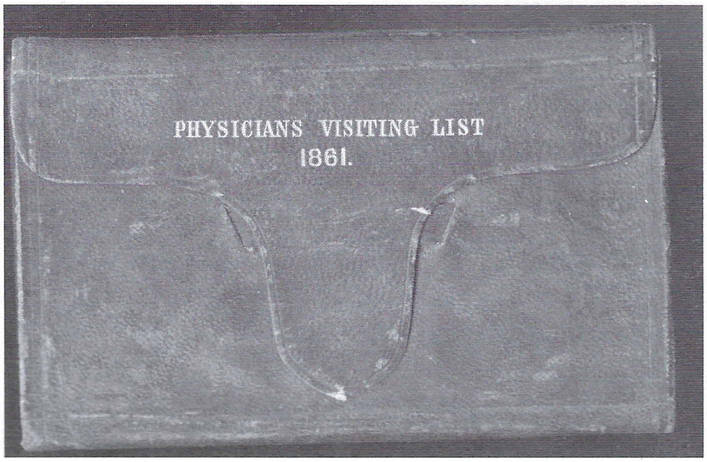
CAR 264	BUSH 404 26	@20c	$ 80 89
"	"	"	
"	"	"	
"	"	"	
"	"	"	
"	"	"	

Yours Respectfully,

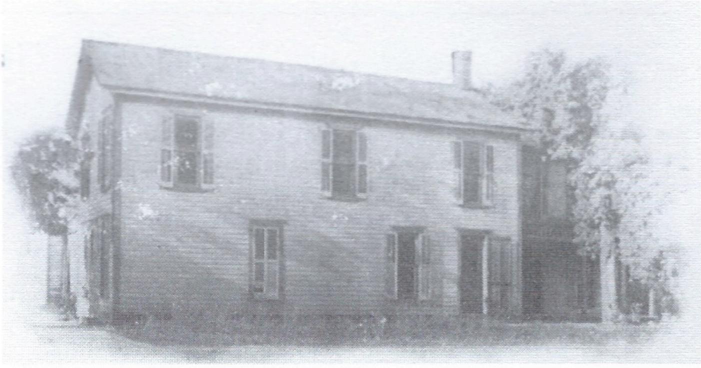
J. M. REDMOND,

Acting Commissioner.

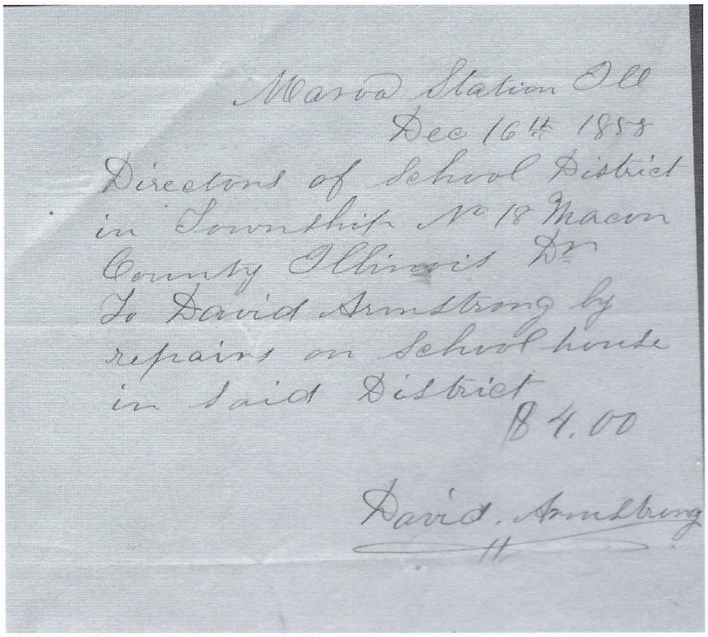
This is the receipt that Edward Foulke received on July 11, 1862. He shipped "one car" of corn as payment for the land he purchased from the Illinois Central Railroad. Many farmers paid for their land in similar fashion.



1861 Physicians Visiting List

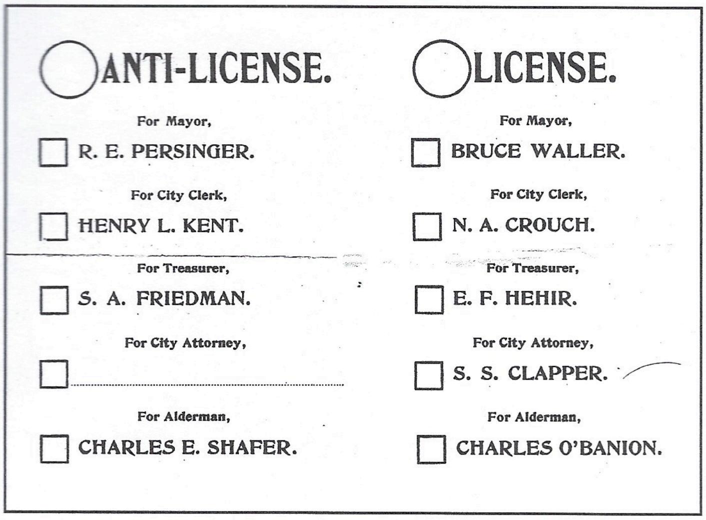


The Schenck house was the first dwelling built in Maroa. The house was moved and is currently at 400 Block South Maple Street.



Maroa Station Ill
Dec 16th 1858
Directors of School District in Township No 18 Macon County Illinois Dr
To David Armstrong by repairs on School house in said District
$4.00
David Armstrong

Bill of work done at the Maroa school, 1859.
Courtesy of Larry Nix.



○ANTI-LICENSE.

For Mayor,
☐ R. E. PERSINGER.

For City Clerk,
☐ HENRY L. KENT.

For Treasurer,
☐ S. A. FRIEDMAN.

For City Attorney,
☐ ....

For Alderman,
☐ CHARLES E. SHAFER.

○LICENSE.

For Mayor,
☐ BRUCE WALLER.

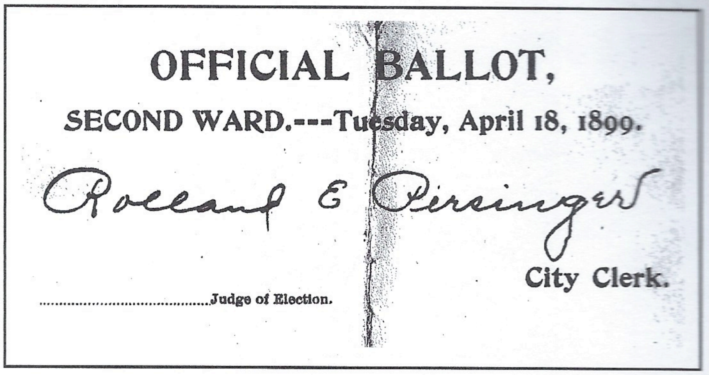
For City Clerk,
☐ N. A. CROUCH.

For Treasurer,
☐ E. F. HEHIR.

For City Attorney,
☐ S. S. CLAPPER.

For Alderman,
☐ CHARLES O'BANION.

This 1899 ballot is an interesting picture of the past.



OFFICIAL BALLOT,
SECOND WARD.---Tuesday, April 18, 1899.

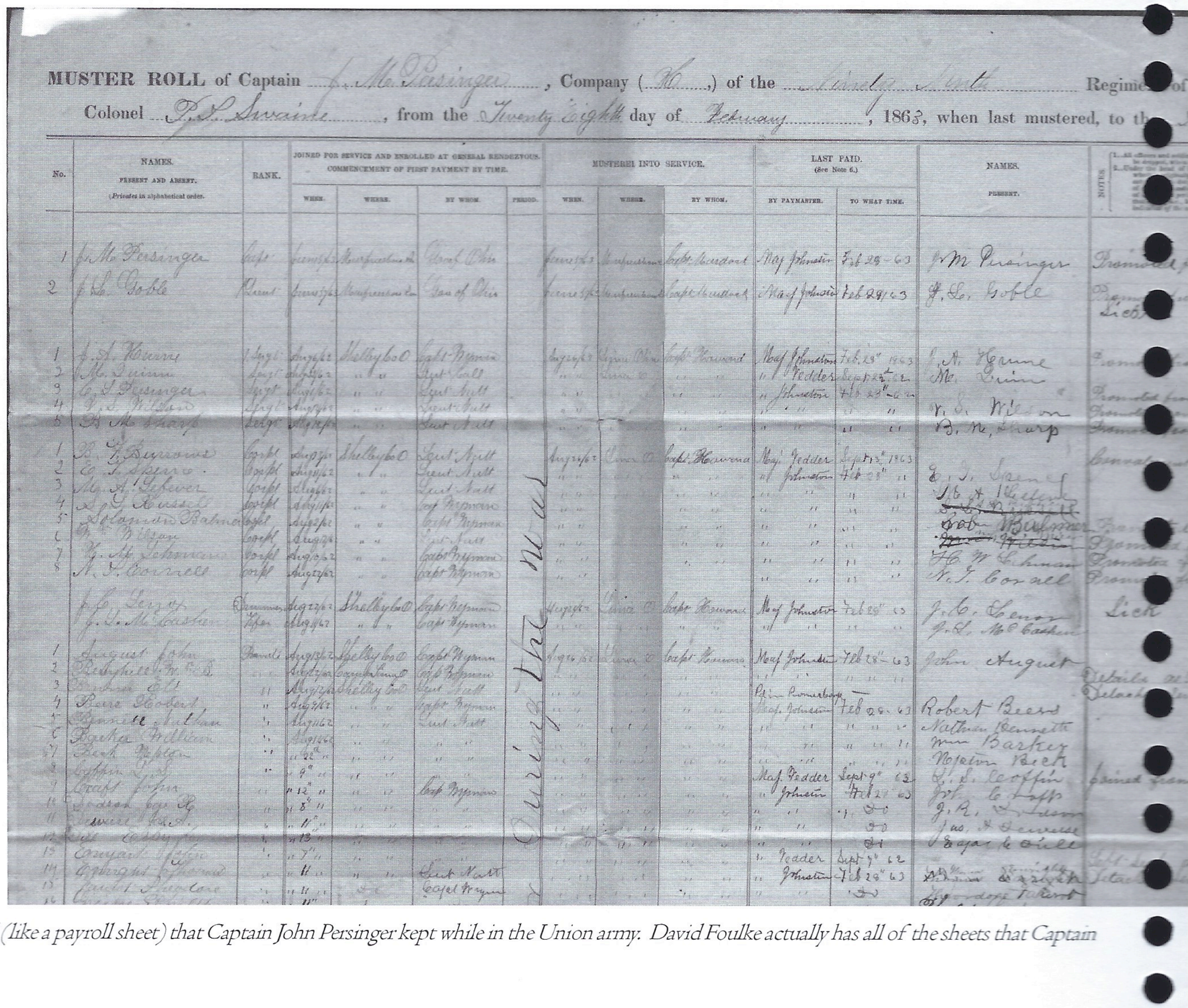
Rolland E Persinger
City Clerk.

....Judge of Election.

The back of the ballot that is signed by the City Clerk, Rolland Persinger.

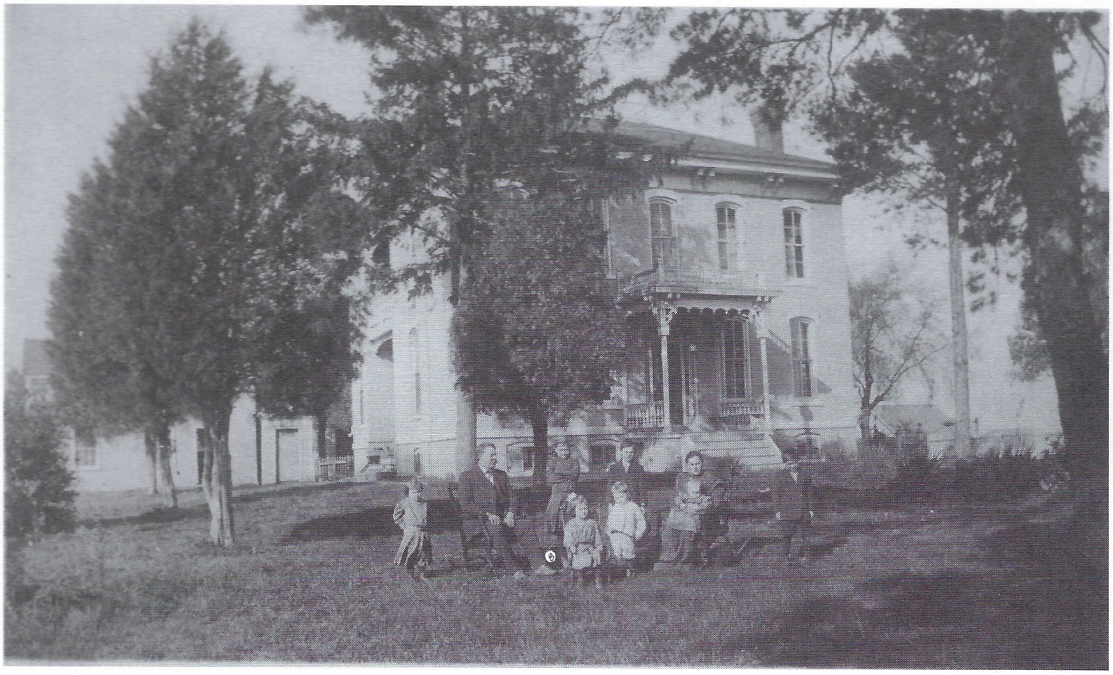
TIDBIT

I am thankful for the leadership of the committee and for each member who took the reins of their particular job very seriously and worked in that area. It took the work of all of us to pull it together. Thanks to everyone for a great weekend that all will remember for years to come. It was quite an undertaking as the ideas kept flowing and plans were worked out to make most of them happen and where they would be placed. It was a wonderful weekend.
Joy F. Gardner, Sesquicentennial committee member, age 65.

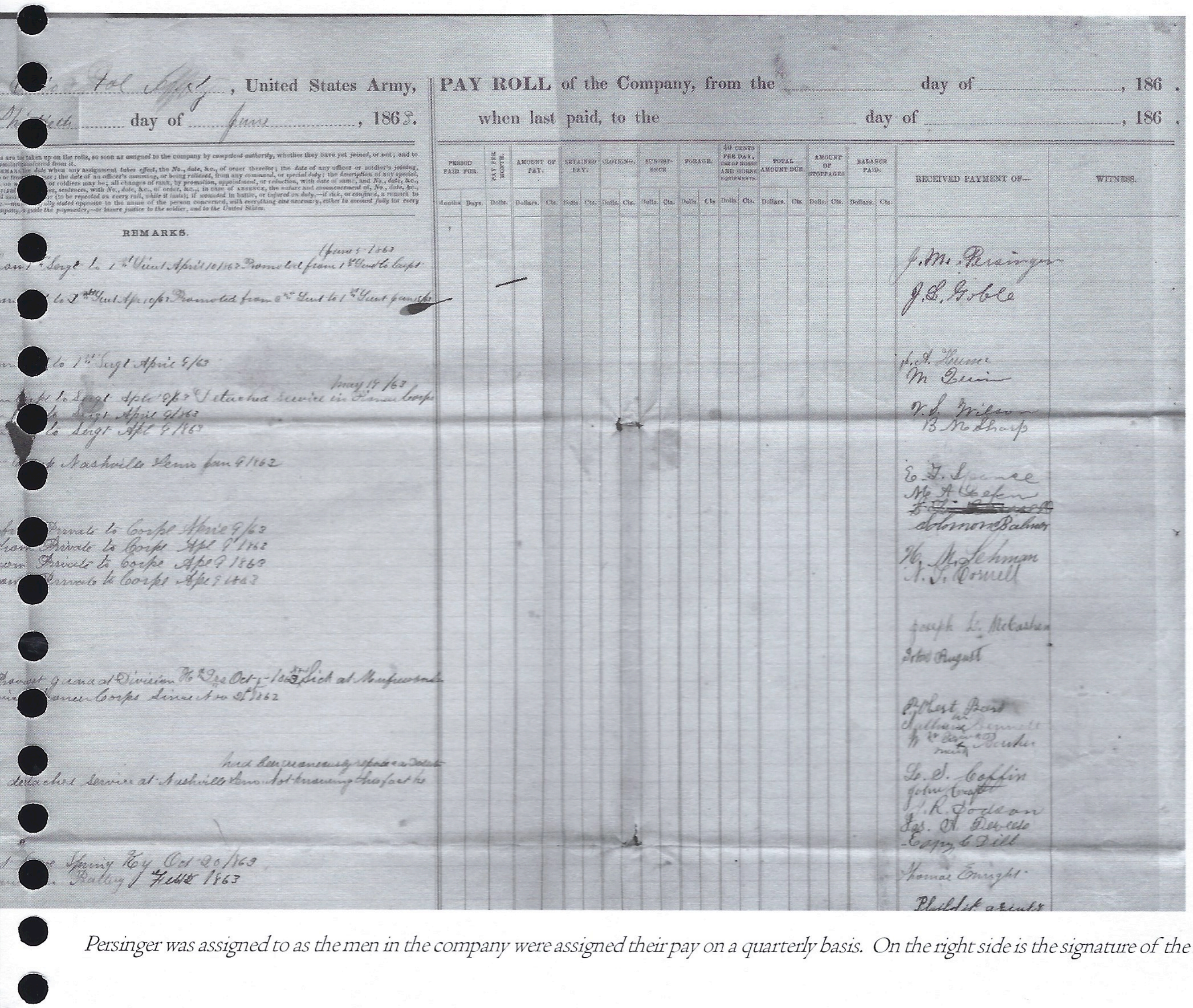


MUSTER ROLL of Captain J. M. Persinger, Company (K) of the Ninety Ninth Regime
Colonel P. T. Swaine, from the Twenty Eighth day of February, 1863, when last mustered, to th

This is a Muster roll (like a payroll sheet) that Captain John Persinger kept while in the Union army. David Foulke actually has all of the sheets that Captain



Baird - Rogers - Miles Home
William Baird had this home built at the current address of 15093 North Wood Street, it was completed in 1867. (Picure taken 1895) The Bairds had three daughters and one of the daughters (Eliza Jane) married Basal Cooper, they lived in a home at 231 North Wood Street in Maroa.



Vol Infty, United States Army, **PAY ROLL** of the Company, from the .... day of ...., 186 .
Thirtieth day of June, 1863. when last paid, to the .... day of ...., 186 .

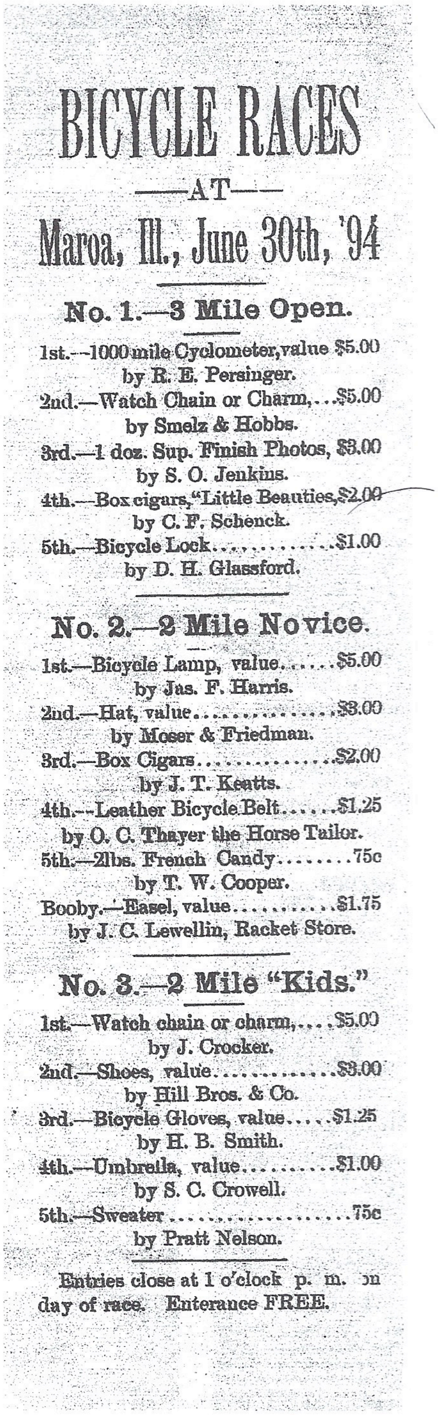
PERIOD PAID FOR. | PAY PER MONTH. | AMOUNT OF PAY. | RETAINED PAY. | CLOTHING. | SUBSISTENCE. | FORAGE. | 40 CENTS PER DAY, FOR USE OF HORSE AND HORSE EQUIPMENTS. | TOTAL AMOUNT DUE. | AMOUNT OF STOPPAGES. | BALANCE PAID. | RECEIVED PAYMENT OF— | WITNESS.

REMARKS.

Sergt to 1st Lieut April 10/1863 Promoted from 1st Lieut to Capt June 5 1863
to 2nd Lieut Apr 10/63 Promoted from 2nd Lieut to 1st Lieut June
to 1st Sergt April 9/63
Corpl to Sergt Apl 9/63 Detached service in Pioneer Corps May 14 /63
Sergt April 9/1863
to Sergt Apl 9/1863
Nashville Tenn Jan 9/1862
Private to Corpl April 9/63
from Private to Corpl Apl 9 1863
Private to Corpl Apl 9 1863
Private to Corpl Apl 9 1863
Provost guard at Division Hd Qrs Oct 5 1863 Sick at Murfreesboro
Pioneer Corps since Nov 2d 1862
detached service at Nashville Tenn not knowing this fact he
Spring Ky Oct 20/1863
Bailey / Feb 12 1863

J. M. Persinger
J. L. Goble
M. Erwin
V. S. Wilson
B. N. Sharp
E. T. Spence
M. A. Coffin
Solomon Balmer
H. M. Lehman
N. T. Cornell
Joseph L. McCashen
John August
Robert Bond
William Bennett
Barker
L. S. Coffin
John Craft
J. R. Dodson
Jas. H. Dewees
Espy C. Dill
Thomas Enright

Persinger was assigned to as the men in the company were assigned their pay on a quarterly basis. On the right side is the signature of the soldiers.



BICYCLE RACES

—AT—

Maroa, Ill., June 30th, '94

No. 1.—3 Mile Open.

1st.—1000 mile Cyclometer, value $5.00
by R. E. Persinger.
2nd.—Watch Chain or Charm, ...$5.00
by Smelz & Hobbs.
3rd.—1 doz. Sup. Finish Photos, $3.00
by S. O. Jenkins.
4th.—Box cigars, "Little Beauties, $2.00
by C. F. Schenck.
5th.—Bicycle Lock............$1.00
by D. H. Glassford.

No. 2.—2 Mile Novice.

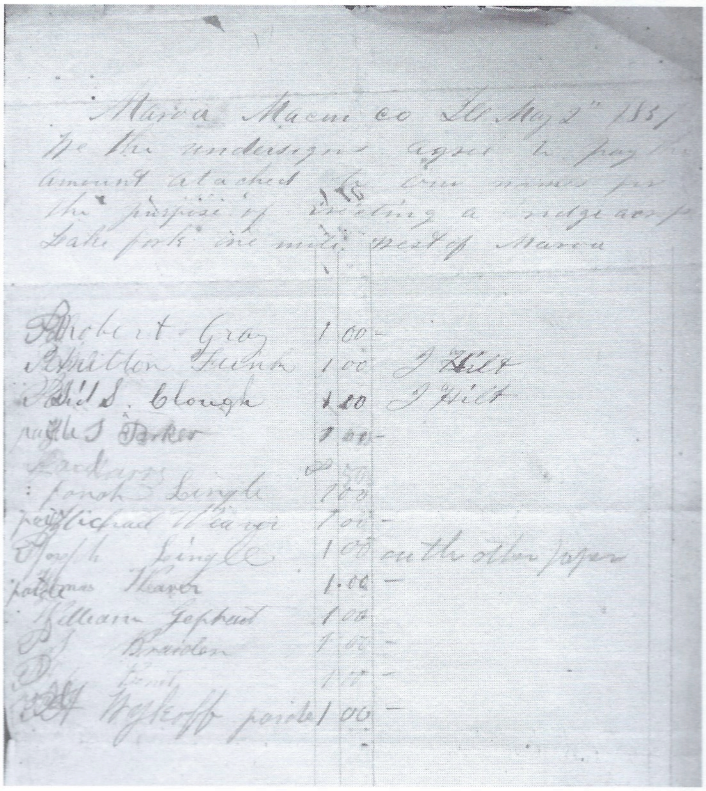
1st.—Bicycle Lamp, value......$5.00
by Jas. F. Harris.
2nd.—Hat, value...............$3.00
by Moser & Friedman.
3rd.—Box Cigars...............$2.00
by J. T. Keatts.
4th.—Leather Bicycle Belt......$1.25
by O. C. Thayer the Horse Tailor.
5th.—2lbs. French Candy........75c
by T. W. Cooper.
Booby.—Easel, value...........$1.75
by J. C. Lewellin, Racket Store.

No. 3.—2 Mile "Kids."

1st.—Watch chain or charm,....$5.00
by J. Crocker.
2nd.—Shoes, value.............$3.00
by Hill Bros. & Co.
3rd.—Bicycle Gloves, value.....$1.25
by H. B. Smith.
4th.—Umbrella, value..........$1.00
by S. C. Crowell.
5th.—Sweater...................75c
by Pratt Nelson.

Entries close at 1 o'clock p. m. on day of race. Enterance FREE.

In June 1894, Maroa had a big day and a number of Bicycle races with a number of prizes available.

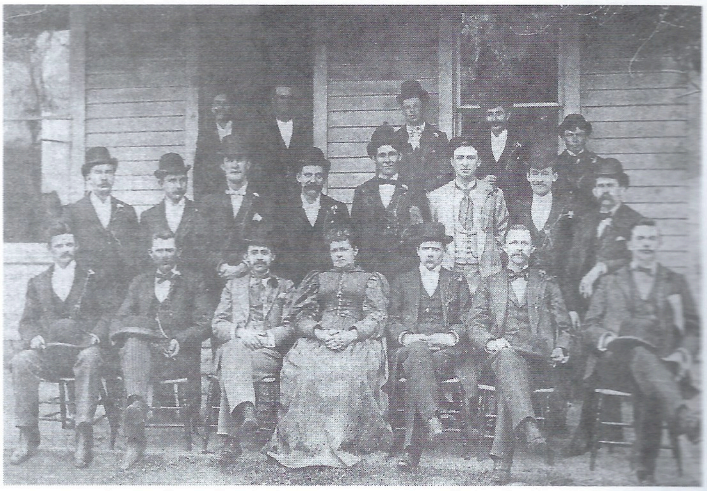


Maroa Macon co Ill May 2nd 1857

We the undersigned agree to pay the amount attached to our names for the purpose of erecting a bridge across Lake fork one mile west of Maroa

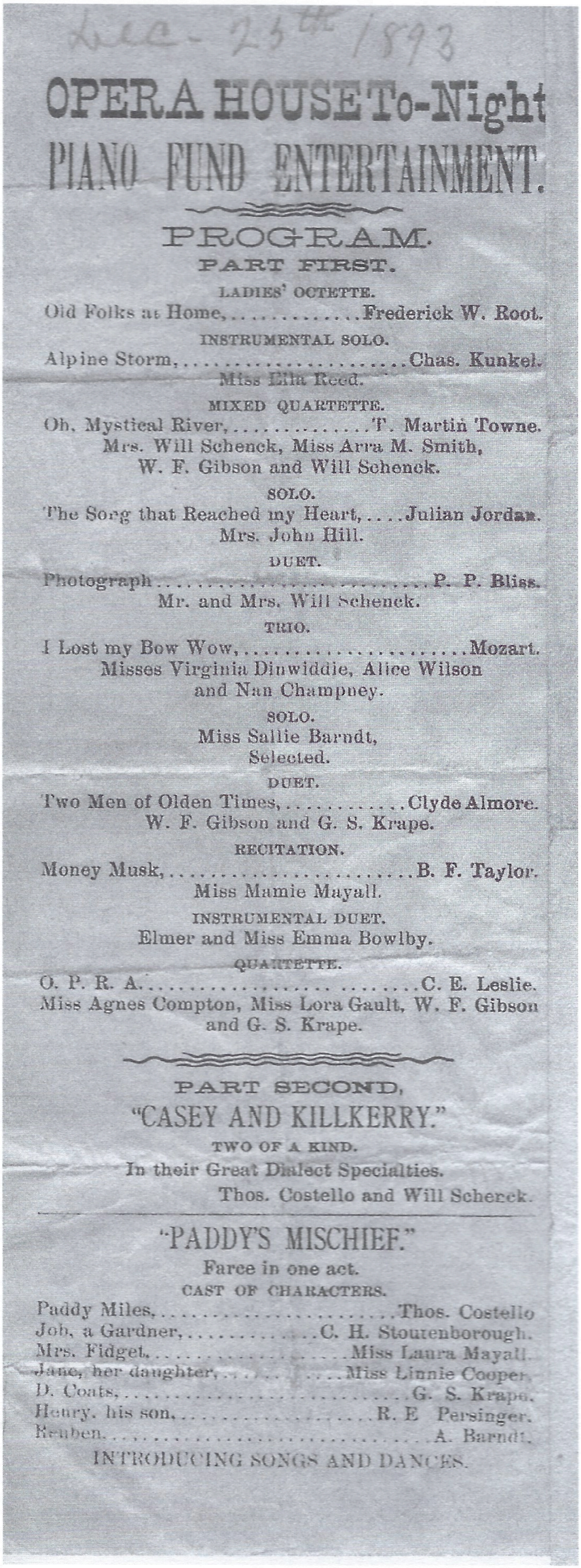
Robert Gray	1 00 —	
Whitton Frank	1 00	J Hilt
Wil S. Clough	1 00	J Hilt
paid Miles J Parker	1 00 —	
Packard	50	
Jonah Lingle	1 00	
paid Michael Weaver	1 00 —	
Joseph Lingle	1 00	on the other paper
paid Thomas Weaver	1.00 —	
William Gephart	1 00	
P J Braden	1 00 —	
D [illegible]	1 00 —	
J H Wykoff paid	1 00 —	

We the undersigned agree to pay the amount attached to build a bridge one mile west of Maroa. Courtesy of Larry Nix.



Mrs. Leila H Gambrel of Sacramento, California has identified some of the people in the old photo published in the March 20, 1975 issue of the Prairie Post. The picture was taken in front of the Columbia Hotel, which stood on North Main Street about the 215 block. L to R, first unknown, Fred Shoemaker, Sam Friedman, Mrs Barnett, Owner of Columbia Hotel, Elam Hill, Miner Alsup.
Second row: Dr Weyl, Cooper, Owner of the bakery, Loyal Crowell, ?, Howard Glassford, ?, Dr. Bachman, dentist, ?, Dill, Maroa News, Andy Barnett, co-owner of the hotel, Rolland Persinger, Howard Ray, ?. She believes this was taken in the nineties (1890's). Mrs. Beatrice Bolen of Fort Worth Texas sent the picture to the Prairie Post. Picture courtesy of Prairie Post.

Douglas
PONTIAC GMC Dodge Dodge Trucks
P. O. BOX 408 • CLINTON, ILLINOIS 61727



Dec-25th 1893

OPERA HOUSE To-Night

PIANO FUND ENTERTAINMENT.

PROGRAM.

PART FIRST.

LADIES' OCTETTE.

Old Folks at Home,.............Frederick W. Root.

INSTRUMENTAL SOLO.

Alpine Storm,......................Chas. Kunkel.
Miss Ella Reed.

MIXED QUARTETTE.

Oh, Mystical River,...............T. Martin Towne.
Mrs. Will Schenck, Miss Arra M. Smith,
W. F. Gibson and Will Schenck.

SOLO.

The Song that Reached my Heart,....Julian Jordan.
Mrs. John Hill.

DUET.

Photograph..............................P. P. Bliss.
Mr. and Mrs. Will Schenck.

TRIO.

I Lost my Bow Wow,.....................Mozart.
Misses Virginia Dinwiddie, Alice Wilson
and Nan Champney.

SOLO.

Miss Sallie Barndt,
Selected.

DUET.

Two Men of Olden Times,............Clyde Almore.
W. F. Gibson and G. S. Krape.

RECITATION.

Money Musk,.........................B. F. Taylor.
Miss Mamie Mayall.

INSTRUMENTAL DUET.

Elmer and Miss Emma Bowlby.

QUARTETTE.

O. P. R. A..........................C. E. Leslie.
Miss Agnes Compton, Miss Lora Gault, W. F. Gibson
and G. S. Krape.

PART SECOND.

"CASEY AND KILLKERRY."

TWO OF A KIND.

In their Great Dialect Specialties.

Thos. Costello and Will Scherck.

"PADDY'S MISCHIEF."

Farce in one act.

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

Paddy Miles,..........................Thos. Costello
Job, a Gardner,...............C. H. Stoutenborough.
Mrs. Fidget,......................Miss Laura Mayall.
Jane, her daughter,..............Miss Linnie Cooper.
D. Coats,................................G. S. Krape.
Henry, his son,.......................R. E Persinger.
Reuben.....................................A. Barndt.

INTRODUCING SONGS AND DANCES.

This Opera House program shows quite a mixed entertainment package of songs and mini plays and instrumentals. All of this in Maroa in 1893 on Christmas day.

TIDBITS

How Bright is Maroa's Future

Maroa's future seems very bright at the moment!

Maroa is gearing up to celebrate its sesquicentennial on Sept. 17-19. We are raising $35,000 to pay for the bands, carnival, fireworks and other great ideas the committee is coming up with. Our festival chairperson, Karen Halicki, has done an excellent job of pulling all the events together.

Maroa has a nice park on the east side of town. There is a pavilion to rent for parties or reunions and items for the kids to play on, tennis courts, horseshoe pits, and a walking trail around the park.

In the past few years, Maroa has built a new library. The Maroa Public Library is a special place and there are always lots going on. We have a very dedicated group of people working at the library. A new firehouse was also built in the last few years. It is a nice facility for the trucks and large meeting area. The old firehouse building is now a John Deere museum and it is open when special events are going on in town.

Maroa is also proud of the new Maroa-Forsyth High School on the west side of town. Maroa is growing as new houses are being completed all the time and new additions are being planned.

Also, business are coming. There is a new pepper plant just north of town as well as a new restaurant and bar.

The future looks very bright for Maroa. The town is growing and moving forward as citizens work together to plan the sesquicentennial. Our dream is that lots of people will come to the celebration and participate in the activities and have lots of fun.

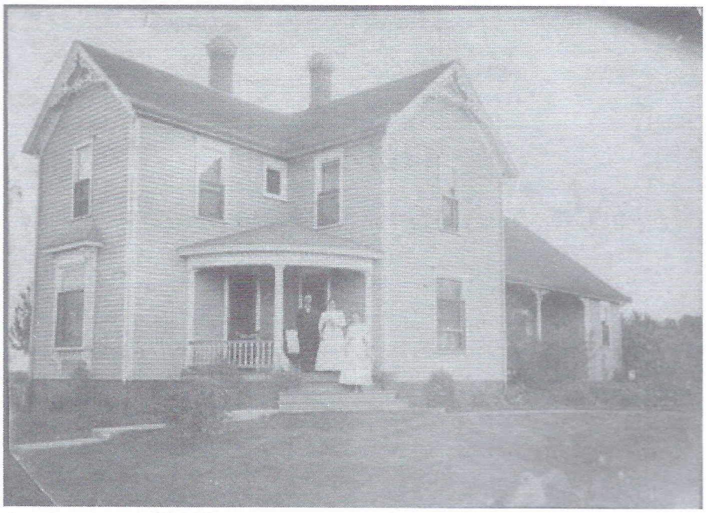
My husband David and I have been residents of Maroa since 1959 when we purchased a lot on Maple Street and built a home there. Our three children have gone through the Maroa-Forsyth schools and six of our 13 grandchildren have attended schools here. As the owners of Fine Things, we have been in business almost 9 years selling crafts of different kinds.

We invite you to visit our town. Stop for lunch, visit the shops, the library, and drive past the new high school and the pepper plant.

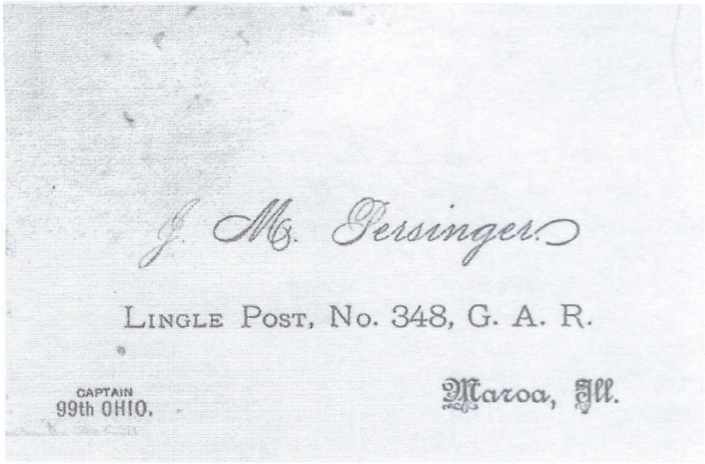
You are welcome in Maroa. Make sure you come to the events and have a good time here.

Joy F. Gardner, Maroa (submitted to Herald & Review for special section)

PETERSON
INSURANCE SERVICES, INC
JAY A. PETERSON
President
Ph: 217-935-6605 Fax: 217-935-3028
Toll Free: 877-935-6605 Mobile: 217-620-6605
117 West Main Street • Clinton, Illinois 61727
E-Mail: peteins@jwbank.net



An 1890's era picture of farm house now occupied by the Russell Family on W. Hampshire Rd. (Preivous occupants include the Harold Carder Family and the Dave Hughes Family)



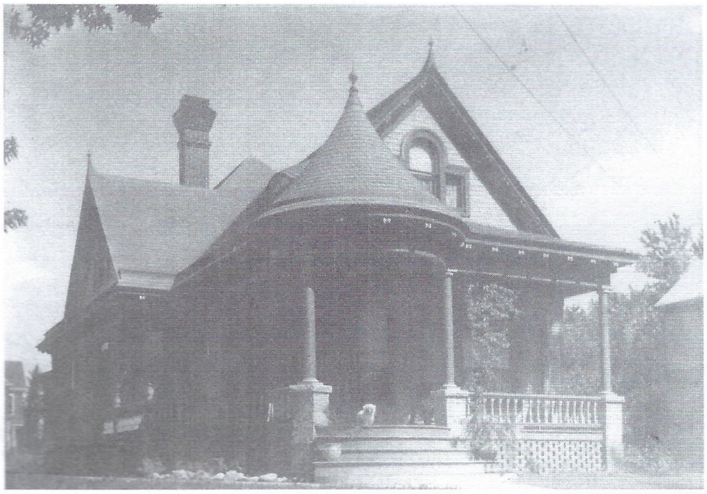
J. M. Persinger

LINGLE POST, No. 348, G. A. R.

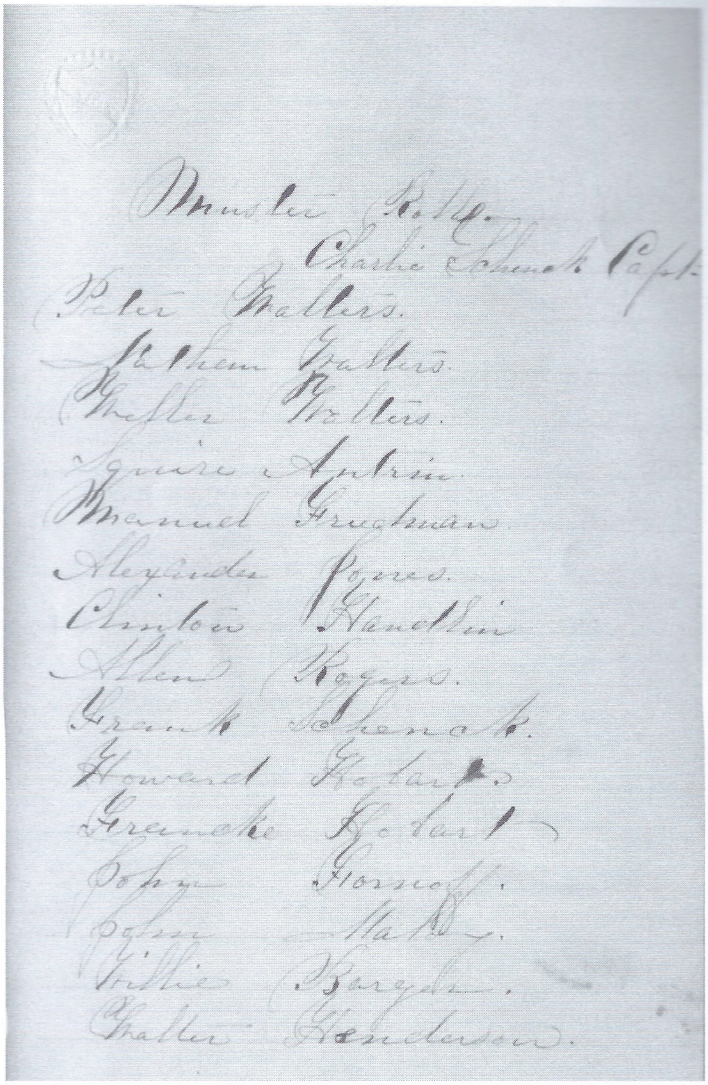
CAPTAIN
99th OHIO.

Maroa, Ill.

The card for John M Persinger at the Lingle Post No. 348 G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic). David Foulke found this 1866 card in the attic. The Grand Army of the Republic is similar to today's American Legion for Civil war Veterans.



JM Persinger & Sarah Beck Persinger home on South Wood Street in Maroa. Built in 1887.



Muster Roll.
Charlie Schenck Capt.
Peter Walters.
Nathem Walters.
Wheller Walters.
Squire Antrim.
Manuel Frughman.
Alexander Jones.
Clinton Hamlin.
Allen Rogers.
Frank Schenck.
Howard Hobart.
Frencke Hobart
Johny Hornoff.
John Malby.
Willie Boyde.
Walter Henderson.

A muster list of those from Maroa in the Civil War. Note the Union army seal on the upper left of the paper. Courtesy of Larry Nix.

DeWitt Savings Bank

302 W. Main St.
Clinton, IL 61727
Ph: 217-935-9470

Equal Housing Lender

Member FDIC

COMPLETE GLASS SALES & SERVICE
AUTO - HOME - COMMERCIAL
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THE DIFFERENCE IS CLEAR TO SEE
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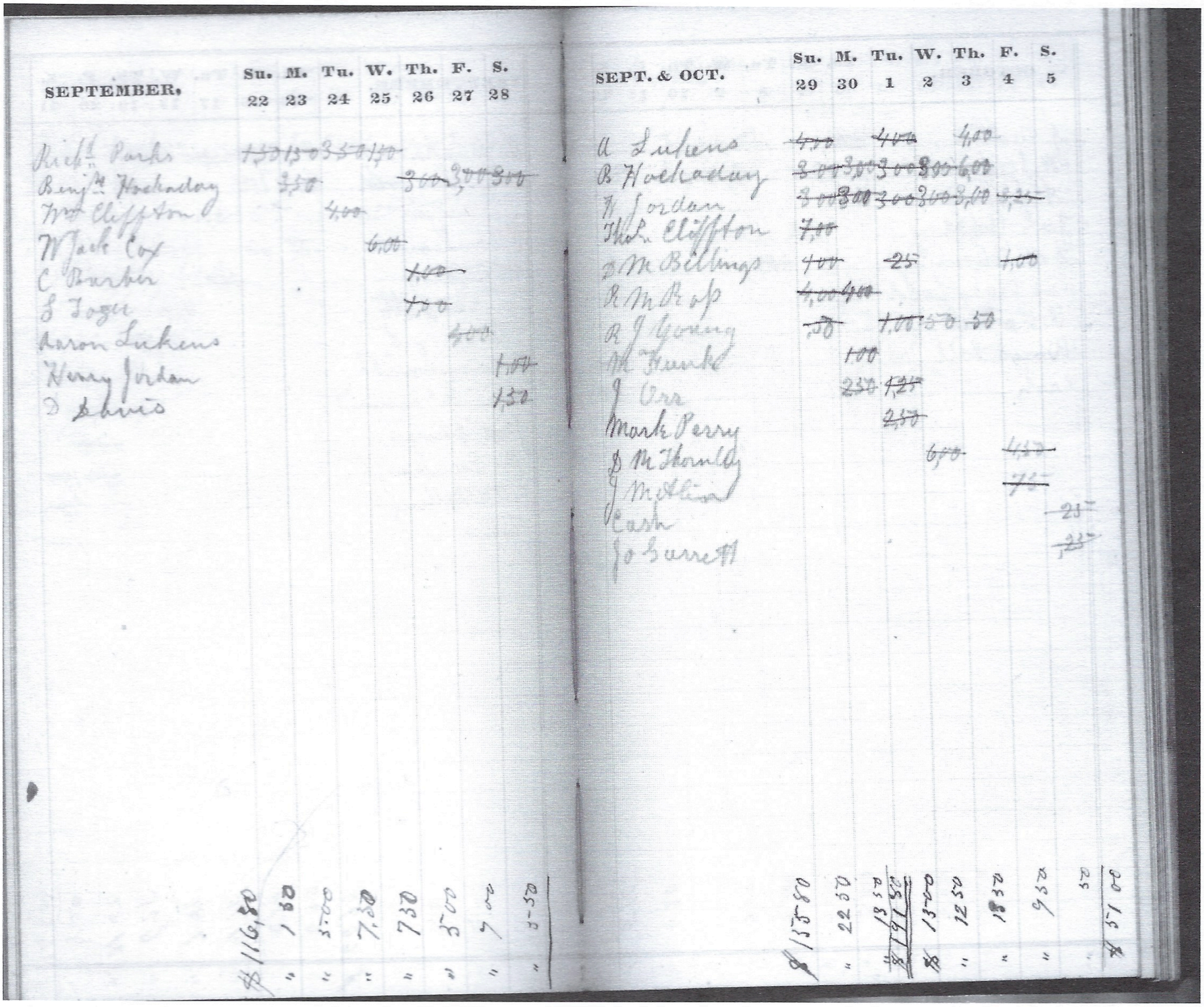


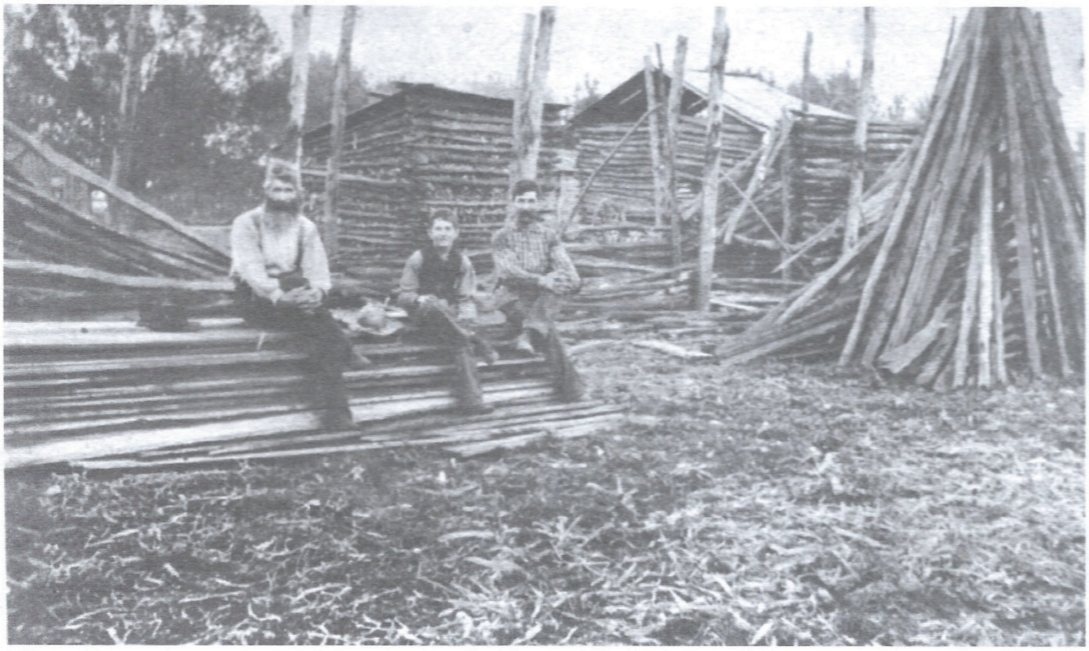
SEPTEMBER.	Su. 22	M. 23	Tu. 24	W. 25	Th. 26	F. 27	S. 28
Rich^d Parks	~~1,50~~	~~1,50~~	~~3,50~~	~~1,50~~			
Benj^m Hockaday		~~3,50~~			~~3,00~~	~~3,00~~	~~3,00~~
Wm Cliffton			~~4,00~~				
W Jack Cox				~~6,00~~			
C Barber					~~1,00~~		
S Toger					~~7,50~~		
Aaron Lukens						~~5,00~~	
Henry Jordan							~~1,00~~
D Shivis							1,50

$ 116,80
" 1 80
" 5 00
" 7 30
" 7 30
" 5 00
" 7 00
" 5 50

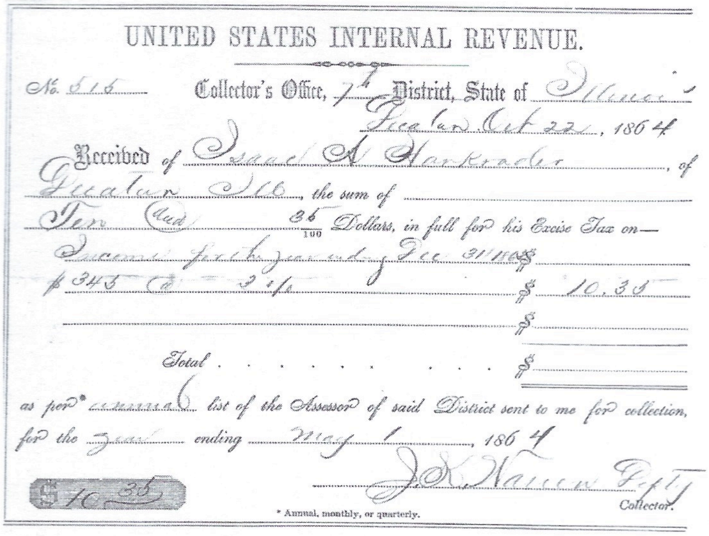
SEPT. & OCT.	Su. 29	M. 30	Tu. 1	W. 2	Th. 3	F. 4	S. 5
A Lukens	~~4,00~~		~~4,00~~		4,00		
B Hockaday	~~3,00~~	~~3,00~~	~~3,00~~	~~3,00~~	~~6,00~~		
H Jordan	~~3,00~~	~~3,00~~	~~3,00~~	~~3,00~~	~~3,00~~	~~1,25~~	
Thos Cliffton	~~7,00~~						
J M Billings	~~4,00~~		~~25~~			~~1,00~~	
R M Ross	~~4,00~~	~~4,00~~					
R J Young	~~,50~~		~~1,00~~	~~50~~	~~50~~		
M Franks		1,00					
J Orr		~~2,50~~	~~1,25~~				
Mark Perry			~~2,50~~				
J M Thornley				~~6,00~~		~~4,50~~	
J McAlin						~~75~~	
Cash							~~21~~
Jo Garrett							~~1,23~~

$ 135 80
" 22 50
13 50
$ 191 80
$ 13 00
" 12 50
" 18 50
" 9 50
50
$ 51 00

This is the ledger of the Doctor in Maroa in 1861.
Courtesy of Larry Nix.



Titus Query (1850 - 1914) was born in Ashland County, Ohio and came to Illinois at the age of five. He married Adeline Bennett and they lived east of Maroa. They were the parents of Eva (Donnelly), Sylvia (Doyle), Mahala, Calvin and Oscar.



UNITED STATES INTERNAL REVENUE.

No. 516 Collector's Office, 7th District, State of Illinois
Decatur Oct 22, 1864

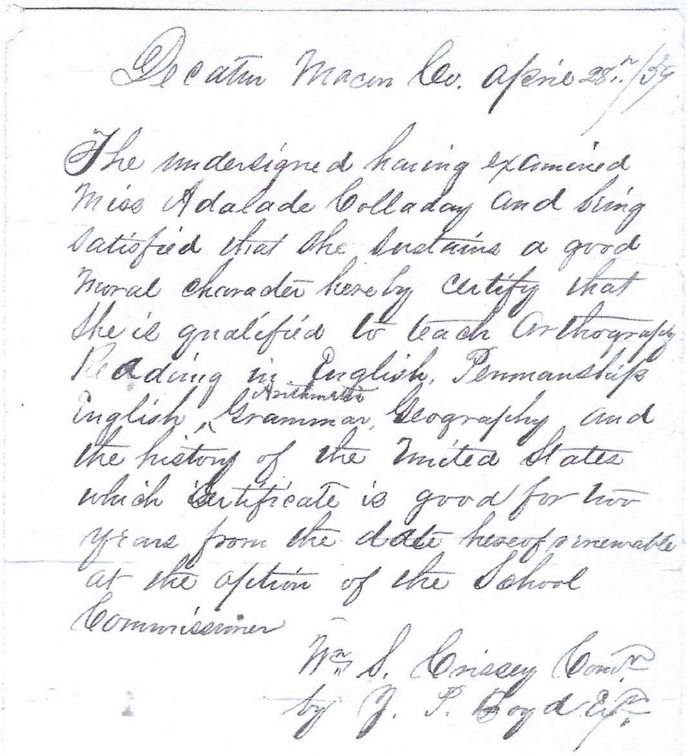
Received of Isaac A Harkrader, of Decatur Ill, the sum of Ten and 35/100 Dollars, in full for his Excise Tax on—
Income for the year ending Dec 31 1863
$345 @ 3% $ 10.35
$
Total . . . . $
as per* annual list of the Assessor of said District sent to me for collection, for the year ending May 1, 1864

J K Warren Depty
Collector.

$10 35/100

* Annual, monthly, or quarterly.

An 1864 Receipt from the United States Internal Revenue Collector office. Note the date of May 1, 1864. Wasn't the IRS not started until the 1900's?

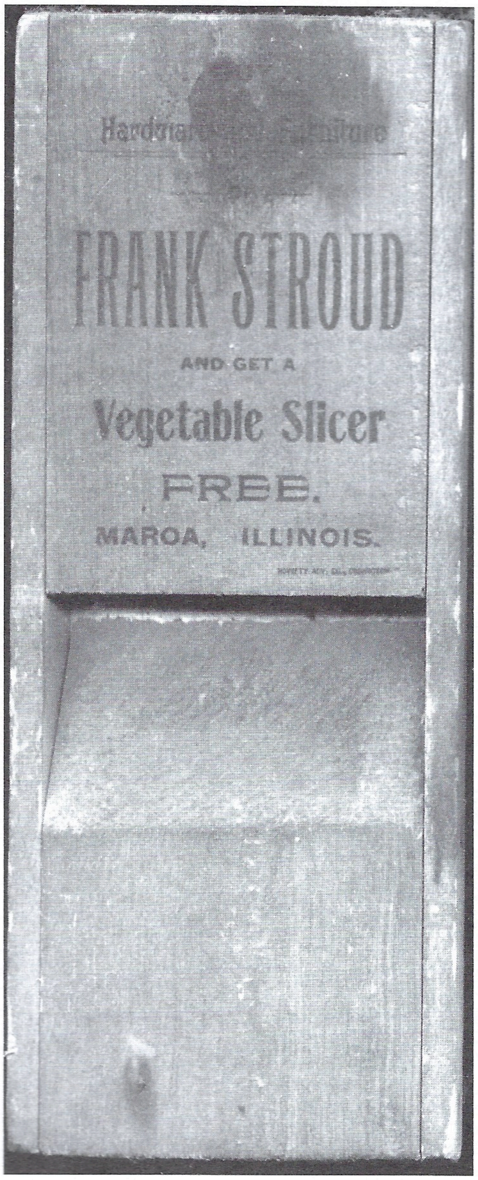


Decatur Macon Co. April 28th/59

The undersigned having examined Miss Adalade Colladay and being satisfied that she sustains a good moral character hereby certify that she is qualified to teach Orthography Reading in English, Penmanship English Arithmetic Grammar, Geography and the history of the United States which Certificate is good for two years from the date hereof renewable at the option of the School Commissioner

Wm S. Crissey Comr
by J. P. Boyd Esq

This is David L Foulke's great grandmother's teaching certificate she received in 1859. She later married Edward Foulke in 1864. He built the farm home in 1864 (seen in the plat drawing from 1875).



A free vegetable slicer when you bought at Frank Stroud's Hardware and Furniture c. 1899. Courtesy of Larry Nix.

SAWGRASS KENNELS

Owner - Kathryn Campbell
7681 Oakland Ave.
Decatur, IL 62526
(217) 877-DOGS

AN EMPLOYEE OWNED COMPANY

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ROBERT L. (BOB) KETENBRINK
President

PHONE 217-875-2611
FAX 217-875-5873

ABC ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS, INC.
SYSTEMS BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

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Green House

Williams Florist & Nursery
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Mt. Zion 217-864-4731 Fax 217-794-5603
E-mail: Williams@locomp.net

Three generations
of plant experience
congratulate Maroa on it's
150'th birthday.

We are proud
to be a part of that history
and ability to serve the community.

- Wholesale
- Spring Vegetables
- Flower Plants
- House Plants
- Fall Mums & Pansies
- Flocked Christmas Trees
- Wreaths
- Blankets, Etc.,

A LOOK BACK AT THE DISCUSSION PANEL HELD IN 1976 WITH MRS. LOUISE GENTLE

Mrs. Louise Gentle was a member of the History Panel for the Maroa Bicentennial Commission. The original panel discussion was held in March 1976. The following pages are notes of her part of the discussion, which are being placed, along with a tape recording of her report (and audio CD), in the Maroa Township Library. Reprinted with permission.

Mrs. Gentle is a lifelong resident of Maroa and has been active in civic affairs for many years.

Louise (McLean) Gentle born Jan 26, 1892 Maroa's oldest citizen when she died in 2001 photo courtesy of M&M Café at 119 West Main

I am Louise McLean Gentle. I was born in Maroa, Illinois in 1892 and except for the first 24 years of my married life I have lived in the same location on South Walnut Street, although not in the same house all of those years. My parents came to Maroa as small children when the town was about ten years old and they spent the rest of their lives here. They saw the town grow with many kinds of business houses which disappeared again with the coming of the interurban and the automobile which gave us easy access to larger cities.

My mother was Margaret Crocker McLean, daughter of John H. Crocker and granddaughter of John Crocker, the first station agent here for the Illinois Central Railroad.

My father was Dr. William T. McLean, son of C. A. McLean, who came to Maroa as a schoolteacher and later became a physician.

In my early years we had several grocery stores, two clothing stores, two drug and jewelry stores, a bakery, blacksmith shops, cigar factory, creamery, photograph gallery. Opera House, three hotels and two milliner shops (where hats could be made to order).

QUESTION: Tell us more about the stores.

ANSWER: I have a Maroa Weekly News dated Sept. 7, 1872, which advertises for some of the businessmen.

MAROA WEEKLY NEWS Sept. 7, 1872 published by Henry G. Funk Crocker & Co, Maroa Grain Elevator Wallace Hotel C. A. McLean - Eclectic Physician & Surgeon, Office over Rogers and Collins Store, Residence~Fifth Door South of School House L. Tozer - M.D. Physician & Surgeon, Office Over Thomas & Bros. Store Thomas & Bro., Dealers in Family Groceries Fornof & Kent – Blacksmithing, carriage and wagon making Gleason's Art Gallery - Over the Post Office Smith Bros. - Groceries, glass, cutlery, etc. Thayer & Milmine - Boots, shoes & hats Garret J. Schenck - Candy, fruit, nuts, tobacco, cigars, oysters, soda water, meals, ice cream, T. S. Johnson - Pianos J. H. Clough - Furniture, coffins, lined and ready for immediate use.

I also have a Maroa Weekly News dated May 10, 1901 with other names: MAROA WEEKLY NEWS May 10, 1901 L. G. Sterling - Graduate Optician Nesbitt Bros. Veterinarians, Office and Hospital ½ block east of depot J. M. Rammel & Co, Furniture & Undertaking Fred Vahernhold - Fresh and cured meat. L. Camp - Dealer in practically everything in leather F. H. Barr - Veterinarian Bradley Dry Goods Co. W. A. Wikoff - Bicycles, stoves, furniture Coffman A. Warwick - Groceries Hill Bros. - Dry Goods Conover & Co., Hats, shoes, neckwear

QUESTION: Why were there so many hotels?

ANSWER: When salesmen came to town they stayed in the hotels, usually overnight. Also, quite a few single men lived in the hotels. Each hotel had a dining room so there were more eating places than we have now. The hotels were Columbia, on the corner south of the United Methodist Church, the Schenck House on the S. W., corner of Main and Walnut and Central Hotel on the west side of Walnut, 1/2 block south of Main. There was also the Grady Rooming House on the site of the United Methodist Church.

The first block on South Walnut - where I live - has changed almost entirely since my childhood. The only building still standing is the tavern, which was originally a Dry Goods Store. That building was Maroa's first garage, owned and operated by John P. Parker - who sold Hanes Cars. South of that was Jenkins Photograph Gallery, Dr. Vernar's Dentist Office, a small residence, then our house and the Methodist Church.

On the west side, Schenck House was on the comer at Main St. Going south there was a saloon, restaurant, and bowling alley combination. Next was the Central Hotel, managed by Mr. Revis, and two homes which were moved - one to the country and one to N. Oak

Picture of the Miller School - circa 1910.

St. - to make room for the present homes on that side of the street.

In the early 1900's there was a race track on the east side of the Bloomington Road (Rt. 51) just south of town. I do not remember the races, but the track was a nice place to go driving. That is where I had my first automobile ride. I had driven our pony out there and Mr. Martin Hitt and his young son were driving one of the first cars in town. I traded a ride in the pony cart for a spin around the track in the car.

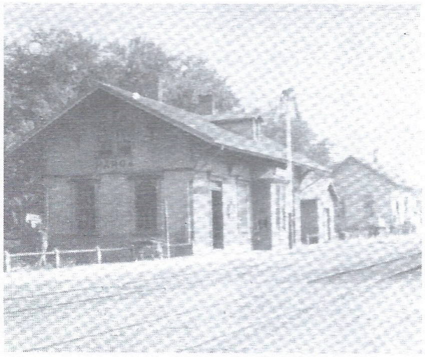
Rural mail routes were established in 1901. For a while the carriers could take passengers with them on the route. It was about a 7-hour trip (9:00am to 4:00pm). I remember going the northeast route with Capt. C. F. Query. We took our lunch and ate in the orchard at Mr. C. Y. Miller's - on a farm owned by Helen Waller. While we were there I went up into the cupola on the house with the Miller children. We could see all around the countryside.

While Decatur is now only a matter of minutes away, we used to drive horses or go on the train and make a day of shopping. With the coming of the interurban, there was a car each way every hour so the trip was easier and quicker. The automobile and good roads took the place of the interurban.

The first system of phones consisted of ten or twelve home-owned phones. Each one had about ten numbers on a dial. We turned a pointer to the number wanted and turned a crank to ring.

The Maroa Fire Co. was organized in 1870 and the firehouse was built just north of the present City Hall. In 1898 the city bought cages (two, I think) for the retention of prisoners and installed them in a room at the rear of the Fire House.

When it was not easy to go out of town for entertainment, we found many things to do here at home. The Opera House was on the north side of the second floor of the Masonic Building (burned 1946). Many Home Talent plays were given there by the schools and other organizations. Road Shows put on plays and our own Conover's Military Band gave winter concerts there. During the summer the Band Concerts were held every Thursday night on a bandstand on Main Street. It seemed as if every one from town and country all around gathered in town those nights. It was a time for listening, for visiting and for walking up and down Main Street.



Picture of the Maroa train depot taken from the south. It sits on what is now (2004) Grain Elevator Coop at 200 E Main Street.

Maroa held its first Chicken Fry in our yard about 1898 or 1899. Tables were set under a big tent. A bandstand was erected and the Band played during the evening--from 5:00 until 10:00. Charles and Joe Fenton fried the chicken and potato chips in large kettles and they also prepared the other food. Five hundred and sixty eight tickets were sold. So much food was left that a dinner was served the next day. The proceeds were $150.25. It was a great success!

The first Alumni Banquet was held in the Opera House June 1917. C. Y. Miller, Lucille Shipley and I were the Committee named to set the ball rolling. We solicited the Alums for food and had a bountiful feast for 95 people.

The Lodges used to have family parties and programs and they were always well attended. There were lots of school parties in the homes and there were dances in the Hall above the present grocery store. There was always something to do.

There was a Blacksmith Shop in the Post Office block and school kids liked to stop by and watch Mr. Behrer shoe horses. Another fascinating thing was the Tile Factory, across the road from the cemetery. Tile making seemed such a mystery. Dirt was used from land joining the cemetery on the west. That is still a sunken spot.

The city laid a concrete walk all the way to the cemetery. It was a fine place to go roller-skating and also a place for Sunday afternoon strolling. At one time in the early 1900's, there was a roller skating rink where the Linville Hardware Store is. Later there was a movie theater there, where we watched silent pictures while Elsie Kent played appropriate music.

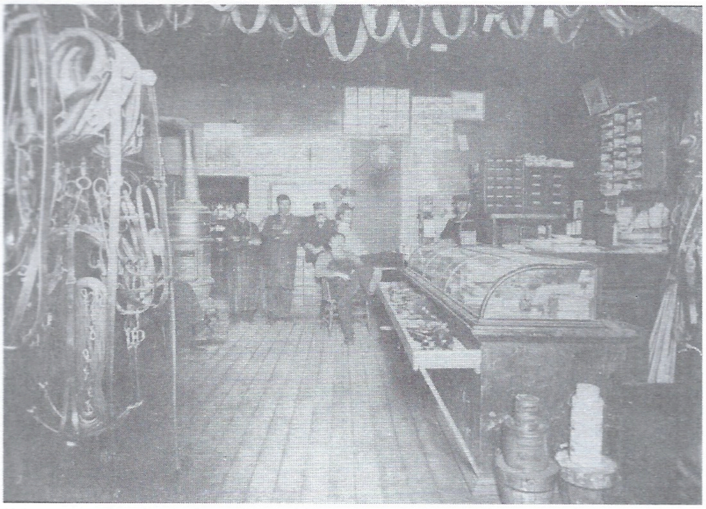
These are some of my memories of "the olden days". It has been sort of a rambling reminiscing but it may give you an idea of Maroa's earlier days.

CLINTON ACCOUNTING SERVICE

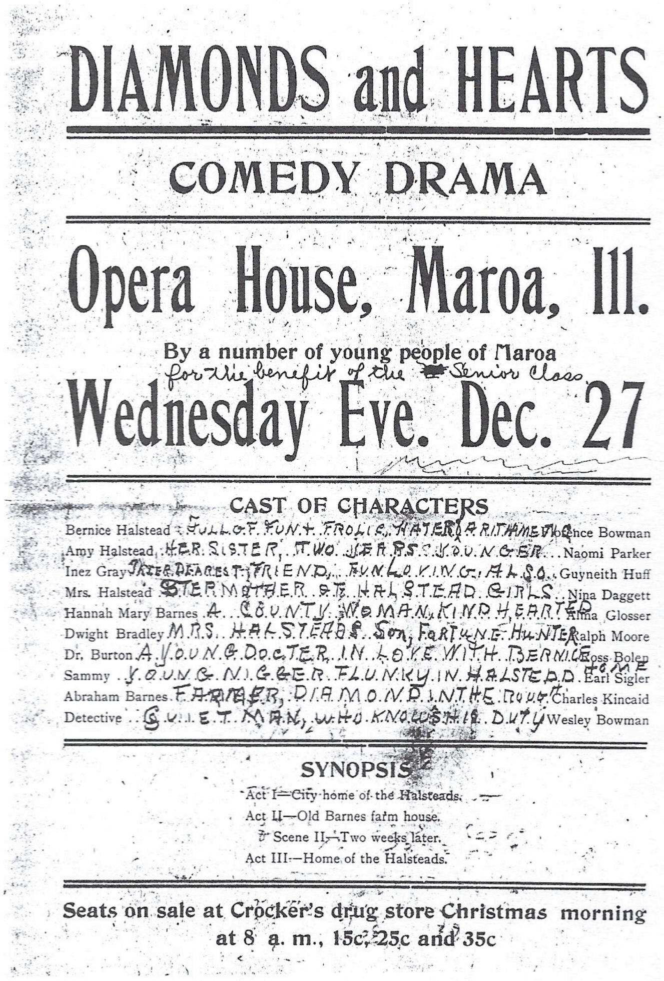
ACCOUNTING and INCOME TAX

103 East Washington
Clinton, Illinois 61727

217/935-2151



Haffey Harness Shop, Bess Spooner Maroa IL. Circa 1900. Courtesy of Larry Nix.



DIAMONDS and HEARTS

COMEDY DRAMA

Opera House, Maroa, Ill.

By a number of young people of Maroa
for the benefit of the Senior class

Wednesday Eve. Dec. 27

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Bernice Halstead	FULL OF FUN + FROLIC, HATER OF ARITHMETIC	Florence Bowman
Amy Halstead	HER SISTER, TWO YEARS YOUNGER	Naomi Parker
Inez Gray	HER DEAREST FRIEND, FUN LOVING ALSO	Guyneith Huff
Mrs. Halstead	STEPMOTHER OF HALSTEAD GIRLS	Nina Daggett
Hannah Mary Barnes	A COUNTY WOMAN, KIND HEARTED	Alma Glosser
Dwight Bradley	MRS. HALSTEADS SON, FORTUNE HUNTER	Ralph Moore
Dr. Burton	A YOUNG DOCTER IN LOVE WITH BERNICE	Ross Bolen
Sammy	YOUNG NIGGER FLUNKY IN HALSTEAD HOME	Earl Sigler
Abraham Barnes	FARMER, DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH	Charles Kincaid
Detective	QUIET MAN, WHO KNOWS HIS DUTY	Wesley Bowman

SYNOPSIS

Act I—City home of the Halsteads.
Act II—Old Barnes farm house.
Scene II—Two weeks later.
Act III—Home of the Halsteads.

Seats on sale at Crocker's drug store Christmas morning at 8 a. m., 15c, 25c and 35c

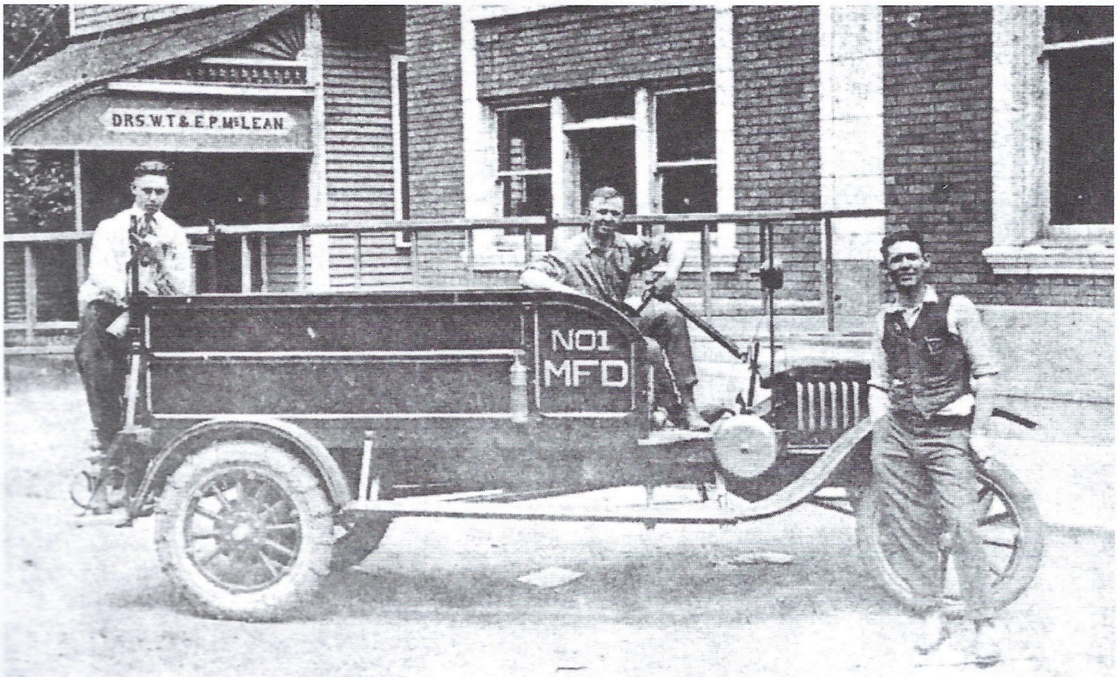
A program for the benefit of the Senior class that was held at the Opera House in Maroa Illinois. The comedy drama Diamonds and Hearts was performed. The year is cir 1900.

TIDBITS

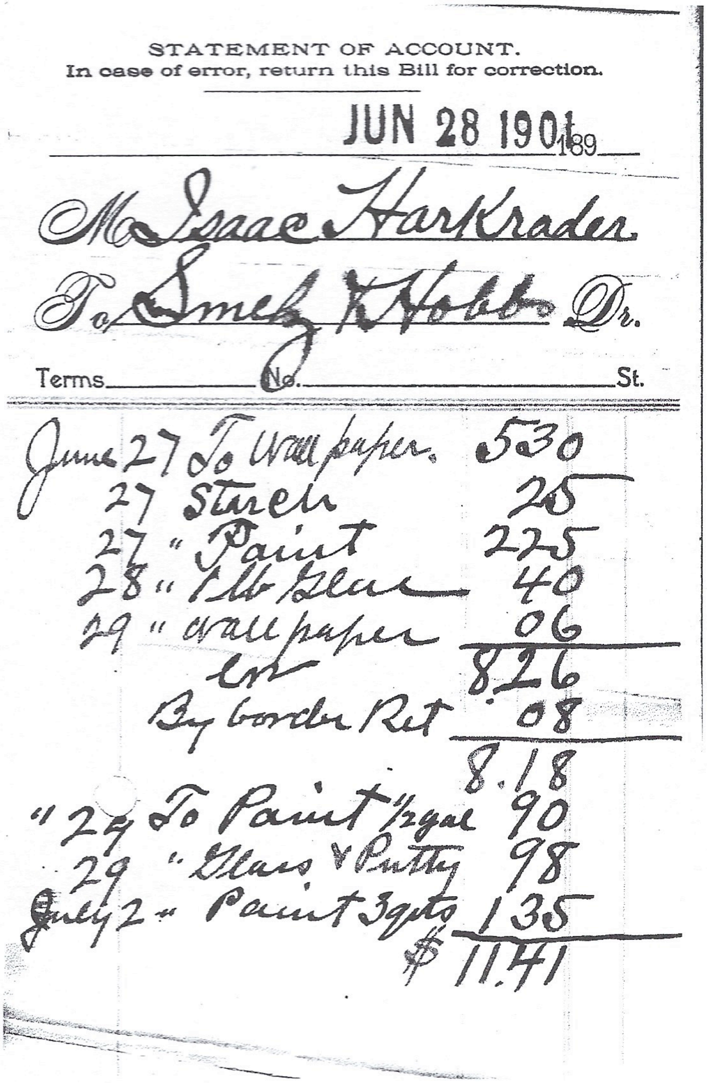
I like the friendly people, and I remember the Community Building on Saturday nights, the free movies, and going to Grandma's after Sunday church for dinner.
Joan Dobbs

Joan Dobbs also remembers having a lot of fun at the square dances at the Community Building. They were a lot of fun.

Joan Dobbs is looking forward to having a lot of people here that have not been here in a long time and seeing them during the Sesquicentennial weekend festival.



The first Motor Fire truck. Boyd Irwin, Charles Creekmur and George Kinkaid (l-r).



STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT.
In case of error, return this Bill for correction.

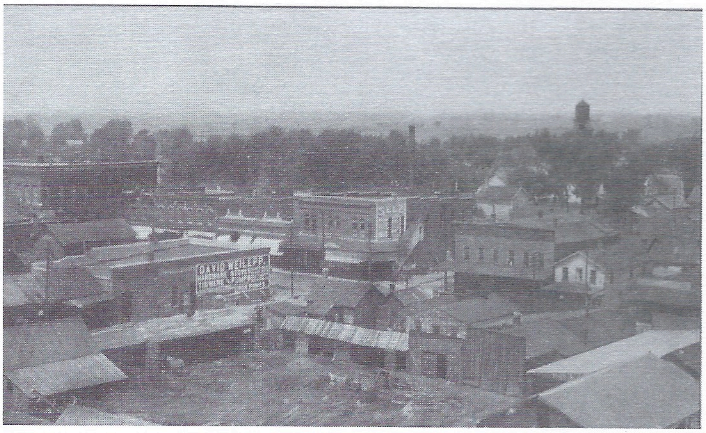
JUN 28 1901 189

M Isaac Harkrader
To Smelz & Hobbs Dr.

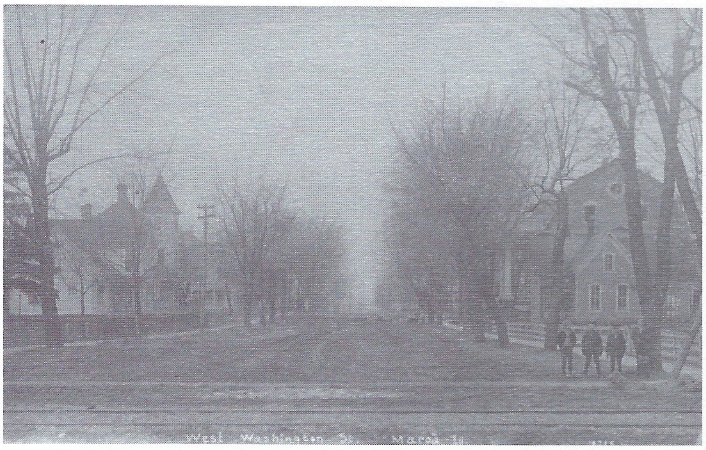
Terms ______ No. ______ St.

June 27	To Wall paper.	5 30
27	Starch	25
27	" Paint	2 25
28	" 1lb Glue	40
29	" Wall paper	06
	Cr	8 26
	By border Ret	08
		8.18
" 29	To Paint ½ gal	90
29	" Glass & Putty	98
July 2	" Paint 3 qts	1 35
		$ 11.41

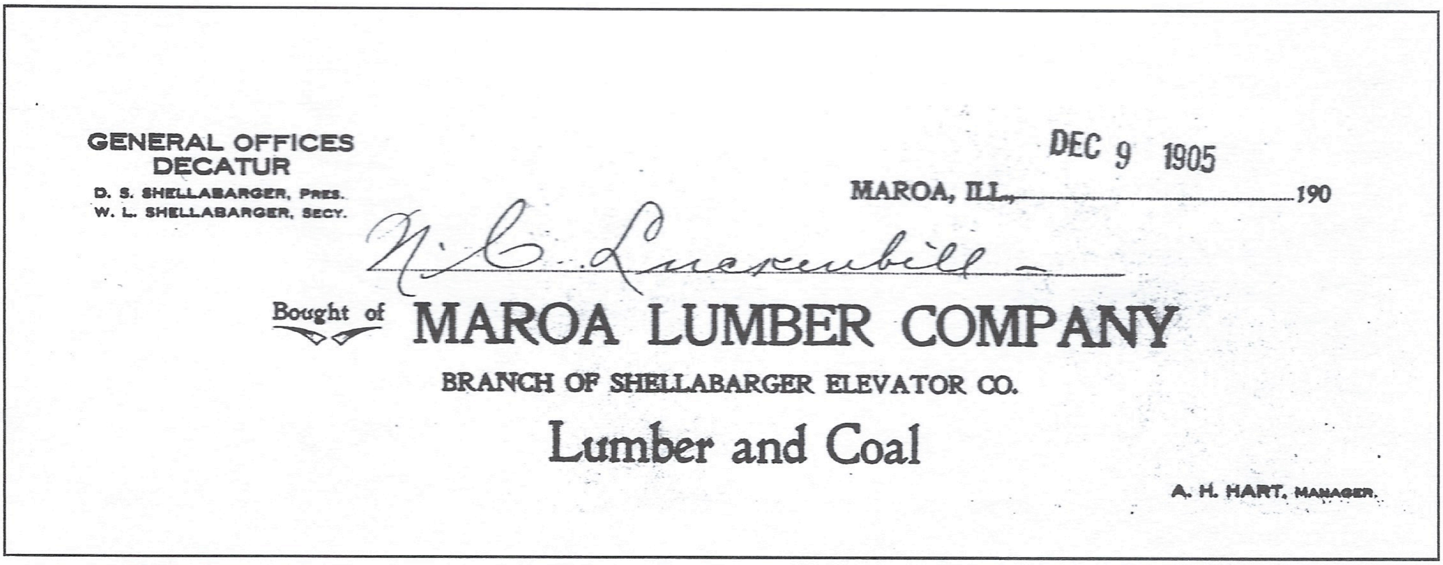
This receipt to Isaac Harkrader for several pain and wallpaper supplies.



A 1903 birds eye view of Maroa from the elevator



Looking west onto Washington Street in 1903. Courtesy of Larry Nix.



GENERAL OFFICES
DECATUR
D. S. SHELLABARGER, PRES.
W. L. SHELLABARGER, SECY.

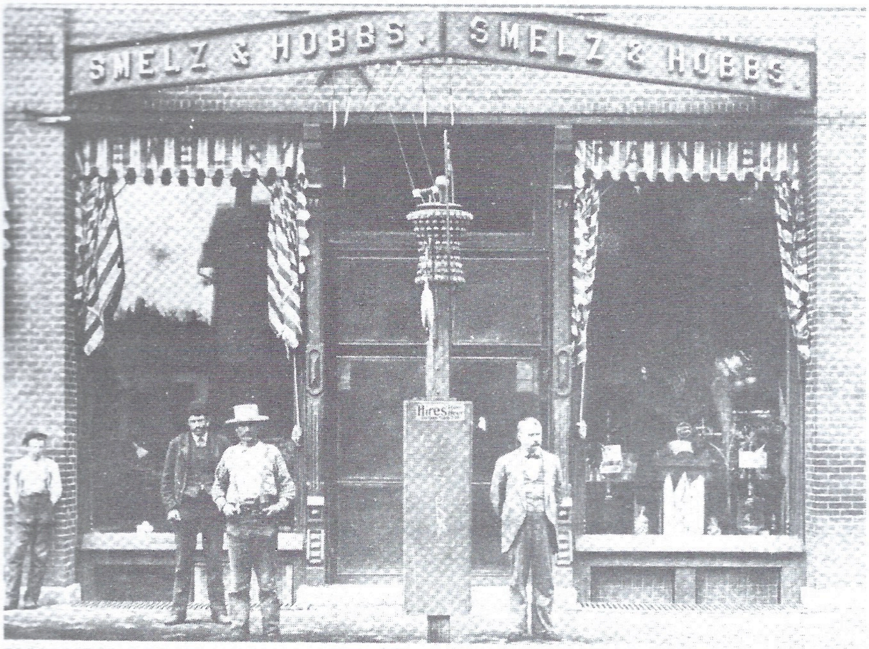
MAROA, ILL., DEC 9 1905 190

N. C. Luckenbill

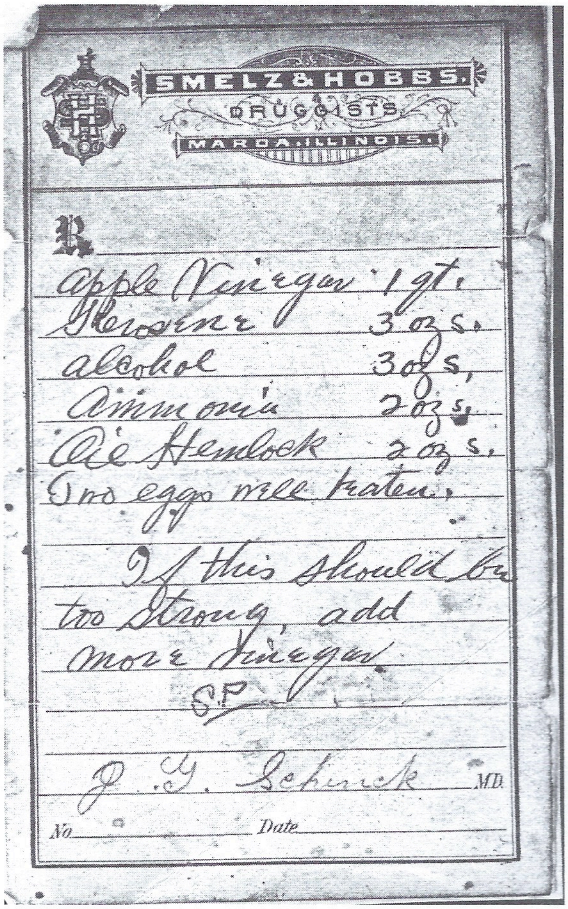
Bought of **MAROA LUMBER COMPANY**
BRANCH OF SHELLABARGER ELEVATOR CO.
Lumber and Coal

A. H. HART, MANAGER.

This 1905 receipt shows that the Maroa Lumber company at that time was a branch of the Shellabarger Elevator Company.



The Smelz & Hobbs drug store. It was destroyed in a fire in 1946.



SMELZ & HOBBS,
DRUGGISTS
MAROA, ILLINOIS.

℞

Apple Vinegar 1 qt.
Kerosine 3 ozs.
alcohol 3 ozs,
Ammonia 2 ozs.
Ale Hemlock 2 ozs.
Two eggs well beaten.

If this should be too strong, add more vinegar.

S.P.

J. G. Schenck MD.

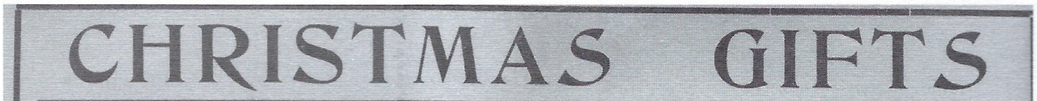
No. Date

This is a receipt from the druggist in town. Note that if the kerosene, alcohol, ammonia or ale hemlock are too strong, add more vinegar!

John Smelz was born in Rosbach, Germany, in 1848. He came to Buffalo, N. Y. in 1857 and in 1864 enlisted in the army. He married Amanda Cox and they came to Maroa in 1874 . Mr. Smelz bought one - half interest in the T. W. Deal Drug Store. Later he bought Mr. Deal's remaining interest and in 1888 took Frank L. Hobbs in as his partner.

In 1894 Cordell Funk, then sixteen years old, began to work in the store after school hours. He became a member of the firm in 1912 and the store name was changed to Smelz, Hobbs & Co. When Mr. Smelz died in 1931, Mr. Funk bought his interest and the store became The Rexall Store. Mr. Hobbs retired in 1936 and Mr. Funk became the sole owner and continued in business until the store was destroyed by fire in 1946. Cordell Funk died in 1952.

Frank L. Hobbs, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzo Hobbs, was an active business man in Maroa for forty-eight years. He died in 1944. Mrs. Hobbs and one son, John, head of the John Hobbs Corporation, were living in Springfield, Illinois in 1954. Two sons, Carl and Clair, were deceased.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS

WE ARE SHOWING A THOROUGHLY STAPLE AND RELIABLE LINE OF CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Diamonds, Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Bracelets, Rings, Silverware, Knives, Forks, Spoons

Cold Meat Forks, Souvenir, Berry, Jelly, and Olive Spoons, Gravy, Cream and Soup Ladles, Pie and Cake Knives, Comb, Brush and Military Sets

The Hamilton Watch
Rail Road Timekeeper of America
Lancaster, Pa.
Dueber

Agents for Parker Celebrated Fountain Pens

Safety Razors from $1 to $5

Spectacles and Eye Glasses properly and scientifically fitted by F. L. HOBBS, 16 years experience.

Copyright Books, Boys and Girls Books, Hand and Family Bibles, Post Card Albums, Children's Card Games, etc. Music Rolls, Pocket Books and Hand Bags, Box Stationery, Mirrors, Hand Glasses, Dolls and numerous other articles.

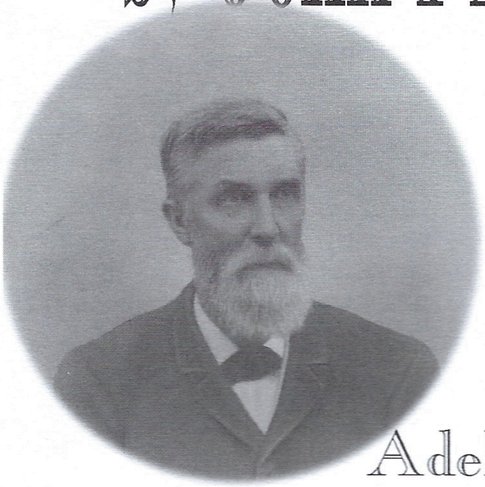
SMELZ & HOBBS,

Maroa, Illinois

Druggists, Jewelers and Opticians

Ad for Christmas gifts from Smelz & Hobbs Druggist. From Maroa News Times 1910. Courtesy of Charles E. Leach.

Foulke Farm established 1857
by John M. and Edward Foulke


Edward

William L.

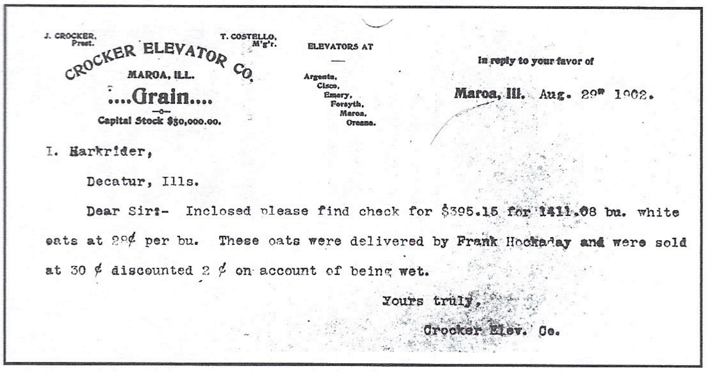
In Memory of:
Edward Foulke
Adelaide Colladay Foulke
William Llewellyn Foulke
Lelah Craig Foulke
Edward Foulke
Mildred Pinney Foulke
Jack S. Foulke
Roberta "Bobbi" Persinger Foulke

Mildred & Edward

Lelah

by David L. Foulke

Bobbi & Jack



J. CROCKER, Prest.
T. COSTELLO, M'g'r.

CROCKER ELEVATOR CO.
MAROA, ILL.
....Grain....
—o—
Capital Stock $50,000.00.

ELEVATORS AT
—
Argenta,
Cisco,
Emery,
Forsyth,
Maroa,
Oreana.

In reply to your favor of

Maroa, Ill. Aug. 29th 1902.

I. Harkrider,

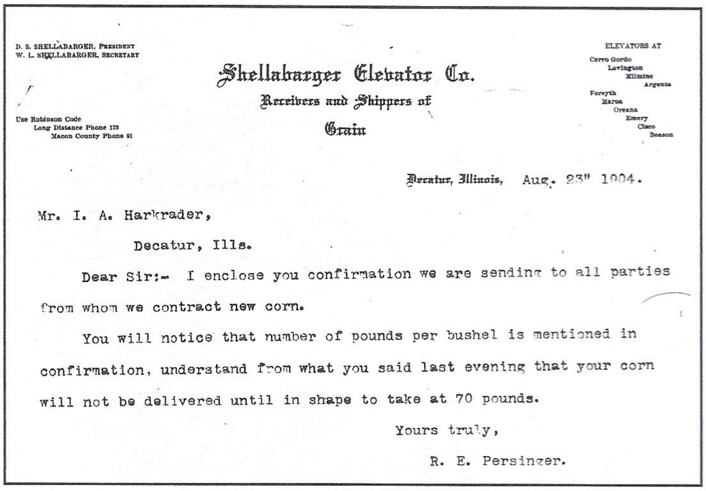
Decatur, Ills.

Dear Sir:- Inclosed please find check for $395.15 for 1411.08 bu. white oats at 28¢ per bu. These oats were delivered by Frank Hockaday and were sold at 30 ¢ discounted 2 ¢ on account of being wet.

Yours truly,

Crocker Elev. Co.

This 1902 receipt from Crocker Elevator Company shows the other elevators that the Crocker elevator company managed.



D. S. SHELLABARGER, President
W. L. SHELLABARGER, Secretary

Shellabarger Elevator Co.
Receivers and Shippers of
Grain

Use Robinson Code
Long Distance Phone 173
Macon County Phone 91

ELEVATORS AT
Cerro Gordo
Lovington
Milmine
Argenta
Forsyth
Maroa
Oreana
Emery
Cisco
Beason

Decatur, Illinois, Aug. 23" 1904.

Mr. I. A. Harkrader,

Decatur, Ills.

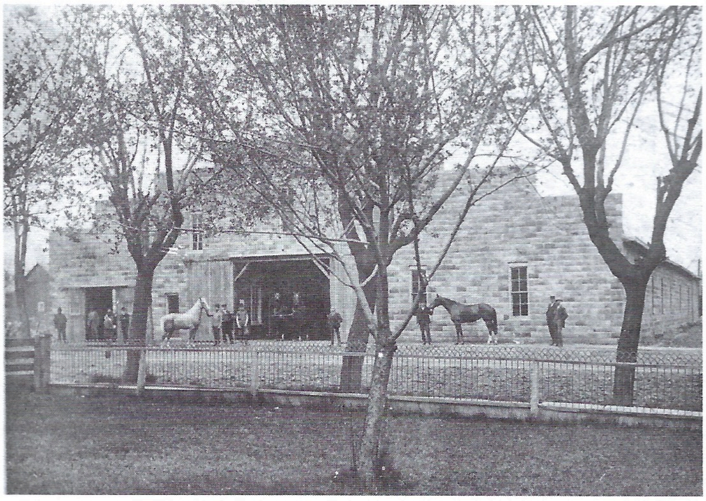
Dear Sir:- I enclose you confirmation we are sending to all parties from whom we contract new corn.

You will notice that number of pounds per bushel is mentioned in confirmation, understand from what you said last evening that your corn will not be delivered until in shape to take at 70 pounds.

Yours truly,

R. E. Persinger.

This 1904 Shellabarger Elevator Company has a unique note in 1904.

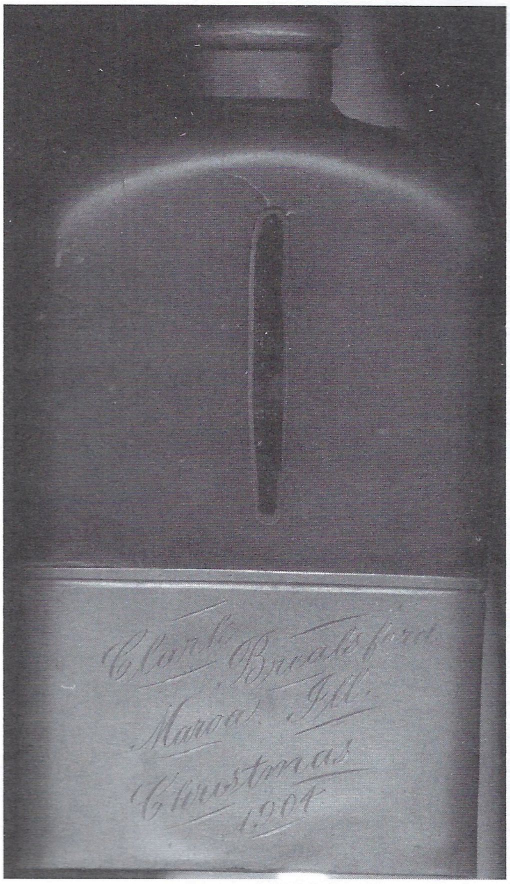


The picture of the Lienhart stables taken era 1905.

In Loving memory of my husband

Harold Lienhart
and son
Robert Lienhart

Virginia Lienhart



For Clark Brelsfoard of Maroa, Illinois, a gift for Christmas 1904. Courtesy of Larry Nix.

See U! at Millikin

What U! want...

Quality
We offer 50 academic programs plus outstanding faculty and hands-on learning opportunities.

Convenience
A private school education is just minutes away.

Value
97% of our graduates get jobs or go on to graduate school within six months of graduation.

MILLIKIN™ UNIVERSITY
1184 West Main Street • Decatur, Illinois 62522
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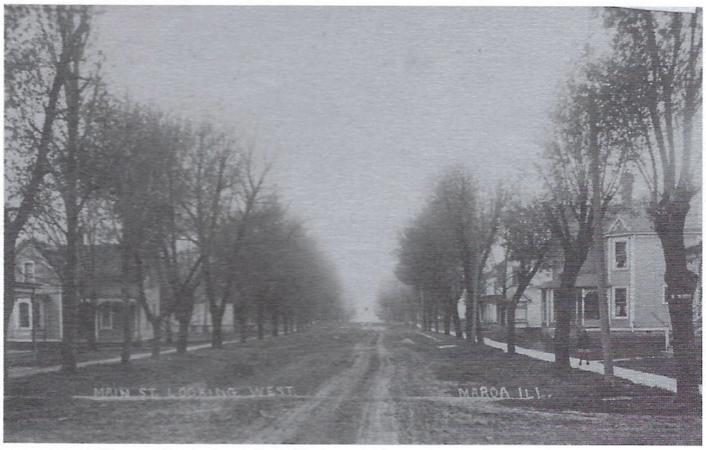
Preview Dates
September 18, 2004
October 9, 2004

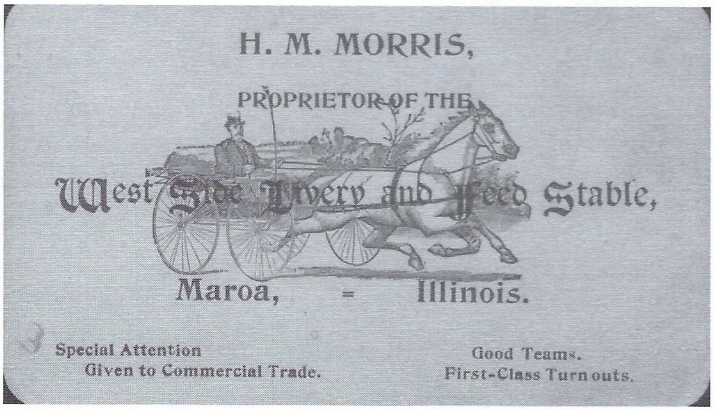
Veteran's Day Open House
November 11, 2004

MLK Jr. Day Open House
January 17, 2005

President's Day Open House
February 21, 2005



1910 Main Street - looking West.



H. M. MORRIS,

PROPRIETOR OF THE

West Side Livery and Feed Stable,

Maroa, = Illinois.

Special Attention
Given to Commercial Trade.

Good Teams.
First-Class Turn outs.

1910 West Side Livery and Feed Stable Business Card.

Garner Auto Body Inc.

Congratulations to Maroa

Jerry "Butch" Garner

260 S. Route 51
P.O. Box 140
Forsyth, IL 62535

Phone 217-877-1656
Fax 877-1673

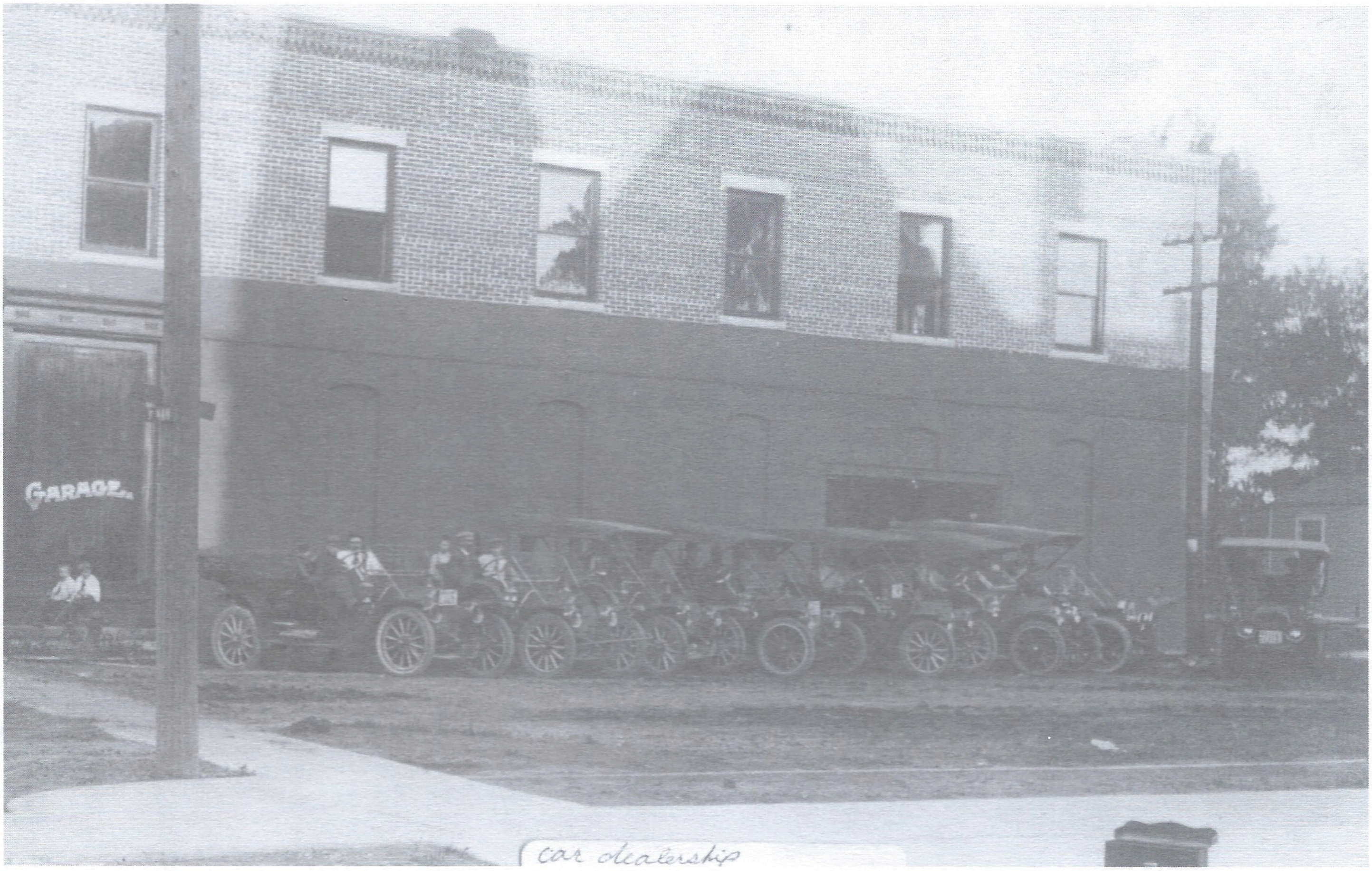
SOY CITY SOCK COMPANY

Manufacturers of Absorbent Products

15343 North Wood Street
Maroa, IL 61756

DAVID and RHONDA CAMFIELD

Ph: 217-794-2261
Fax: 217-794-5155

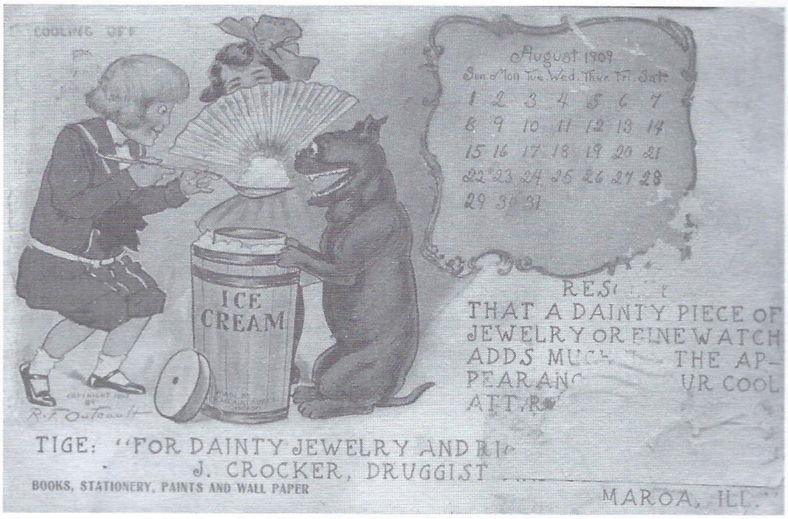


The car dealership along South Walnut street from Main street showing the 1905 era automobiles.

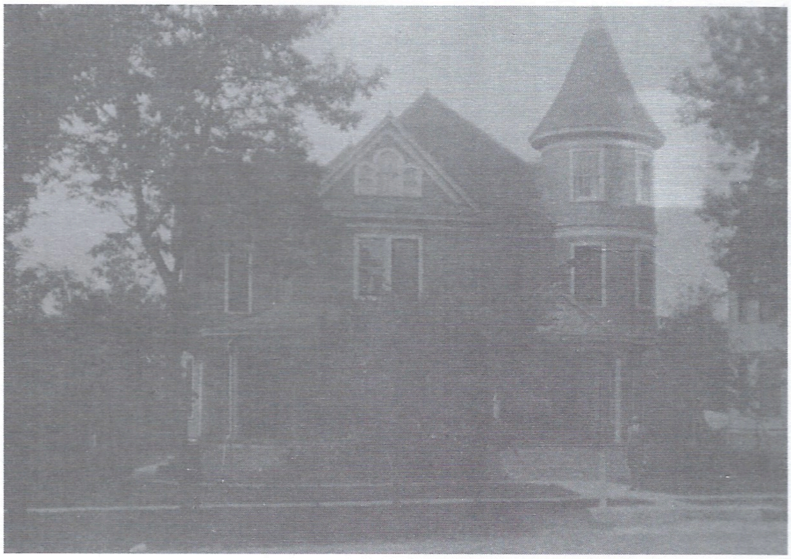
TIDBIT

Several years ago a storm tore through Maroa, downing lots of trees and leaving debris everywhere. My mom's yard was littered with big limbs, small branches, leaves, etc. from the elm trees surrounding her home. We didn't have a chain saw and were trying our best to clean what we could, wondering how on earth we were gong to tackle the big limbs. Then out of nowhere, Bill Weikle armed with a chain saw and a group of boys with rakes, etc. showed up and made short work of cleaning up Mom's yard. They wouldn't take any money; when they were done with our yard they walked on down the street to help anyone who needed it. That's small town spirit.

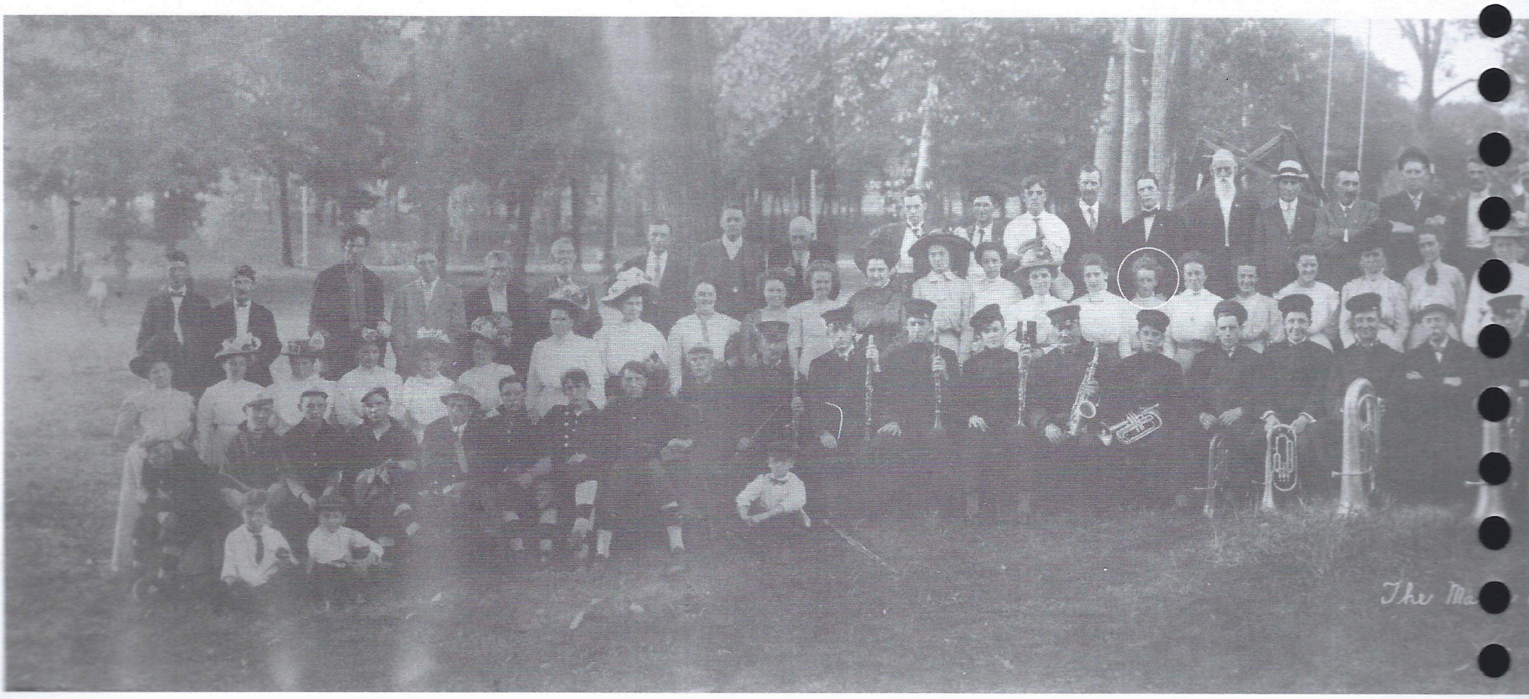
Sesquicentennial committee member Sharon Woolum Age: 47


COOLING OFF
August 1909
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30 31
ICE CREAM
R. F. Outcault
RES
THAT A DAINTY PIECE OF JEWELRY OR FINE WATCH ADDS MUC THE APPEARANC UR COOL ATT
TIGE: "FOR DAINTY JEWELRY AND
J. CROCKER, DRUGGIST
BOOKS, STATIONERY, PAINTS AND WALL PAPER
MAROA, ILL.

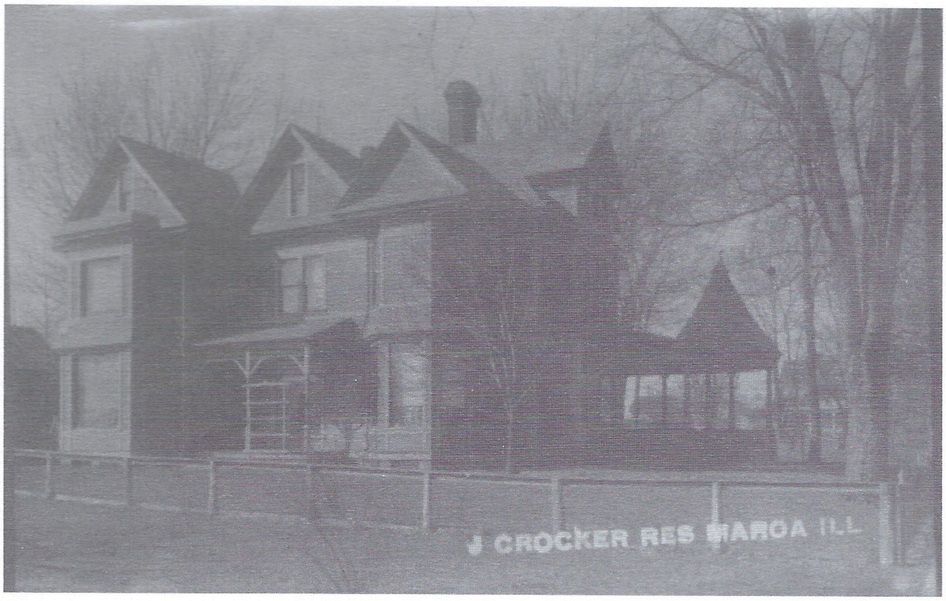
An advertisement for J. Crocker druggist with the calendar for 1909. Courtesy of Larry Nix.



125 South Walnut Street as a new home with the owner on the sidewalk.



This town picture was taken at the Maroa Picnic in Fairview Park in 1909.

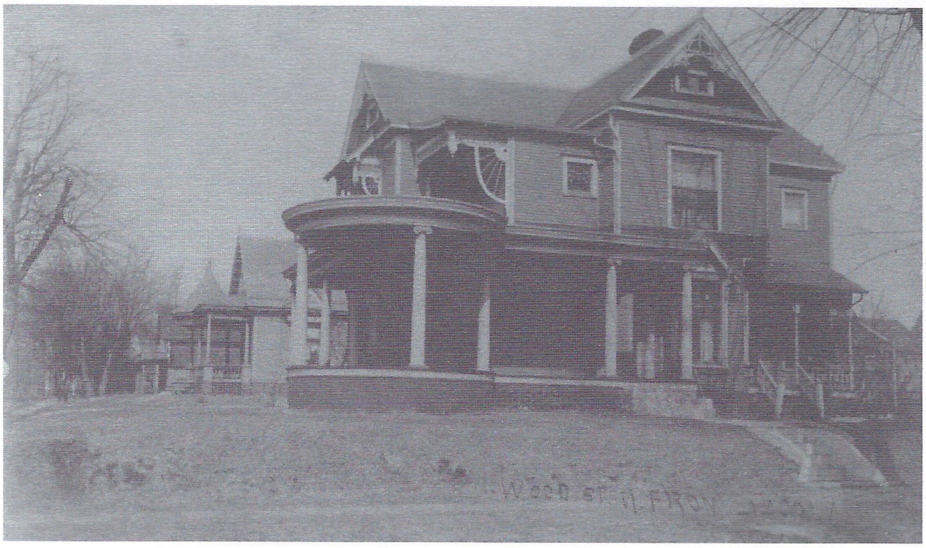

J CROCKER RES MAROA ILL

The "Crocker" House taken in 1913. Courtesy of Larry Nix

TIDBIT

My distinct memories of the Sesquicentennial celebration:
I remember looking down the eight blocks of Main Street that were blocked off, and all of it was filled with people the entire weekend. The people all had such a good time, and there were so many things for people to see and do, that we consistently heard that it was impossible to see everything.

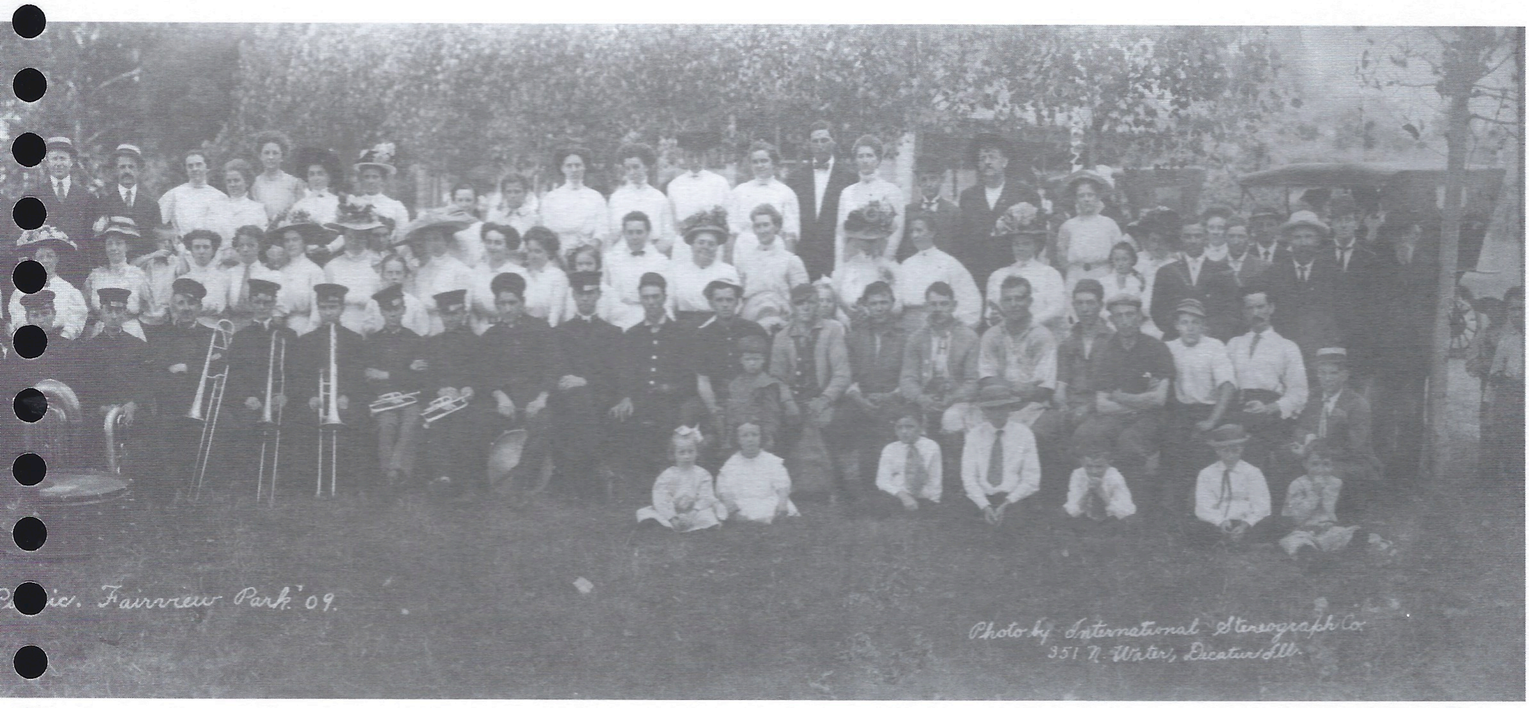
Corner of Wood & Lincoln St., 1913. Courtesy of Larry Nix


WOOD ST. N. FROM

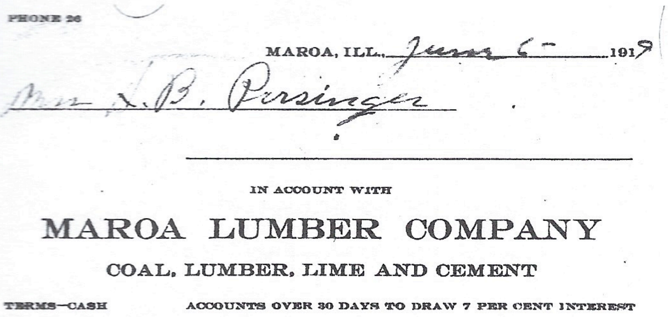
TIDBIT (CONTINUED)

The organizer, Gynni did a great job of getting a variety of music and events for people of different ages to enjoy. It was so memorable.

Ray Ramirez DVM Sesquicentennial committee member age 43


P[illegible]ic. Fairview Park '09.
Photo by International Stereograph Co.
351 N. Water, Decatur Ill.

We put a little circle around Louise Gentle (McLean).


PHONE 26

MAROA, ILL., June 6 1919

Mr L. B. Persinger

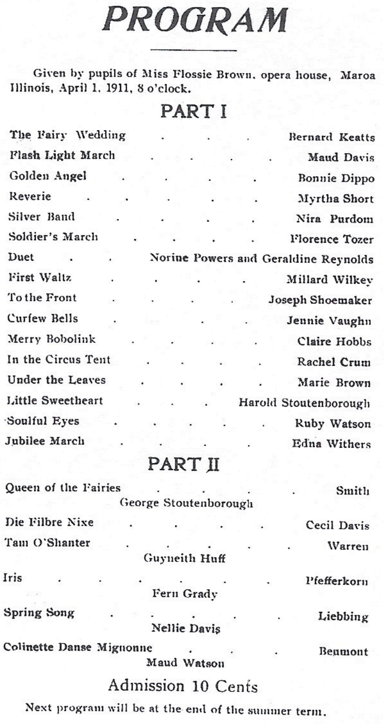
IN ACCOUNT WITH

MAROA LUMBER COMPANY

COAL, LUMBER, LIME AND CEMENT

TERMS—CASH ACCOUNTS OVER 30 DAYS TO DRAW 7 PER CENT INTEREST

To get your coal, lumber and lime, check with Maroa Lumber. Back in 1919.


PROGRAM

Given by pupils of Miss Flossie Brown, opera house, Maroa Illinois, April 1, 1911, 8 o'clock.

PART I

The Fairy Wedding	Bernard Keatts
Flash Light March	Maud Davis
Golden Angel	Bonnie Dippo
Reverie	Myrtha Short
Silver Band	Nira Purdom
Soldier's March	Florence Tozer
Duet	Norine Powers and Geraldine Reynolds
First Waltz	Millard Wilkey
To the Front	Joseph Shoemaker
Curfew Bells	Jennie Vaughn
Merry Bobolink	Claire Hobbs
In the Circus Tent	Rachel Crum
Under the Leaves	Marie Brown
Little Sweetheart	Harold Stoutenborough
Soulful Eyes	Ruby Watson
Jubilee March	Edna Withers

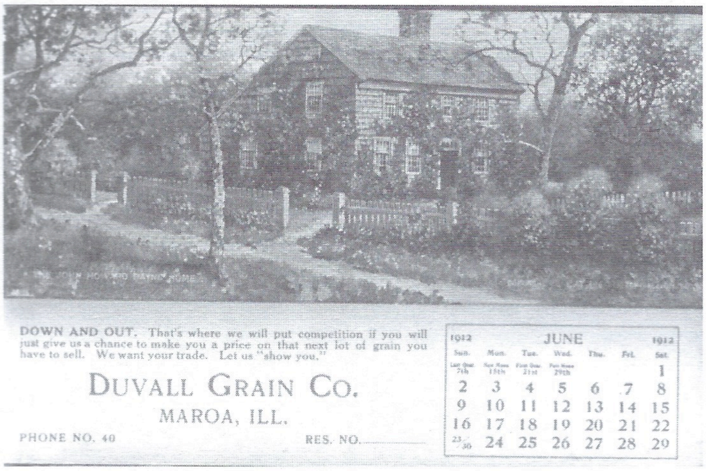
PART II

Queen of the Fairies	George Stoutenborough	Smith
Die Filbre Nixe		Cecil Davis
Tam O'Shanter	Guyneith Huff	Warren
Iris	Fern Grady	Pfefferkorn
Spring Song	Nellie Davis	Liebbing
Colinette Danse Mignonne	Maud Watson	Benmont

Admission 10 Cents

Next program will be at the end of the summer term.

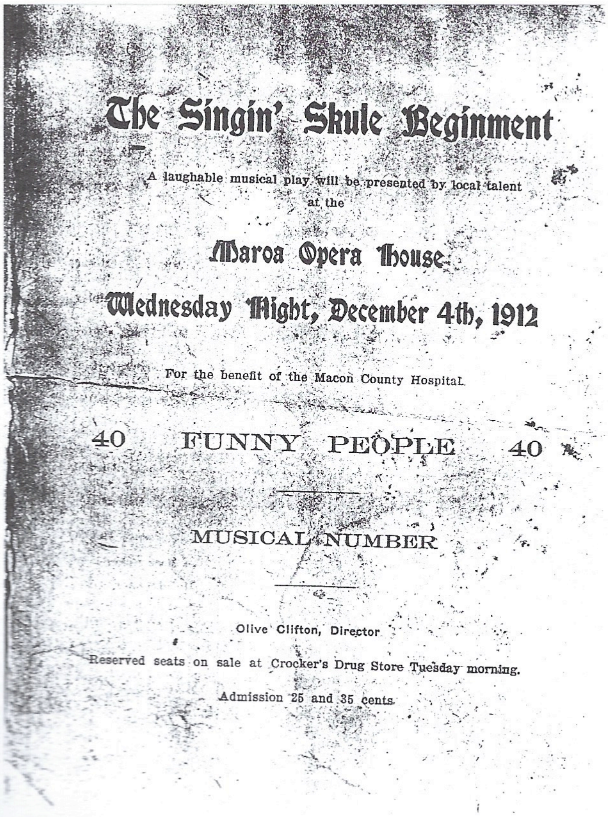
This Program shows just one of the many productions hosted by the Maroa Opera House.


DOWN AND OUT. That's where we will put competition if you will just give us a chance to make you a price on that next lot of grain you have to sell. We want your trade. Let us "show you."

DUVALL GRAIN CO.
MAROA, ILL.

PHONE NO. 40 RES. NO.

1912			JUNE			1912
Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
Last Quar. 7th	New Moon 15th	First Quar. 21st	Full Moon 29th			1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29


The Singin' Skule Beginment

A laughable musical play will be presented by local talent at the

Maroa Opera House

Wednesday Night, December 4th, 1912

For the benefit of the Macon County Hospital.

40 FUNNY PEOPLE 40

MUSICAL NUMBER

Olive Clifton, Director

Reserved seats on sale at Crocker's Drug Store Tuesday morning.

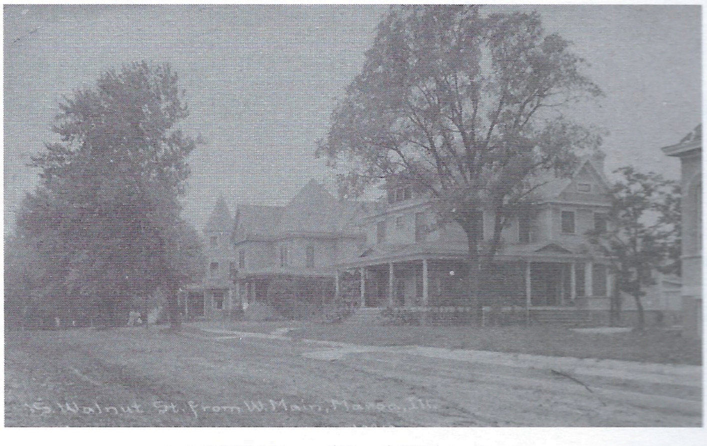
Admission 25 and 35 cents.

A program from the Opera house from 1912.

TIDBIT

I volunteered to be on the Sesquicentennial committee because I felt like it was my duty as resident to help on the Sesquicentennial celebration.

Denise Carter Sesquicentennial committee



A 1912 View of South Walnut Street.

TIDBITS

What I like about living in Maroa. I like the friendliness of the people, and I think of it as my hometown, moreso than my birth town of Clinton.

Kathy Marsh

One thing that stands out for me was the job I had at the Grade school. I got to know all of the kids that went through there in 16 years I was there. I hope I touched their lives, because they certainly touched mine.

Kathy Marsh

The thing I look forward to most is the Sesquicentennial vintage clothing room. We will have a really nice display of some unique dresses, and some are in terrific shape. I think many people will enjoy it.

Kathy Marsh

Story from School days: When we lived in Maroa we lived downtown and we had a big front porch. We would have a lot of people stop and visit on the porch before heading to school, and it was always a friendly stop in Maroa.

Sue Rogers

Leach Family Memorial

James J &
Elizabeth Leach

Virgil A. &
Margaret (Eads)
Leach
Picture taken in 1956

Charles & La'Thorne Leach

We Offer Complete Dental Care
The Newest Techniques in Cosmetic Dentistry

Jerry R. Harrison, D.M.D.

- Porcelain Veneers & Bleaching • TMJ Treatment
- Root Canal Therapy • Complete & Partial Dentures
- Extractions Including Wisdom Teeth
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Decatur
Logan Professional
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ZOOM!

whiter brighter faster

whiten your teeth in about an hour! find out how and call today

VISA

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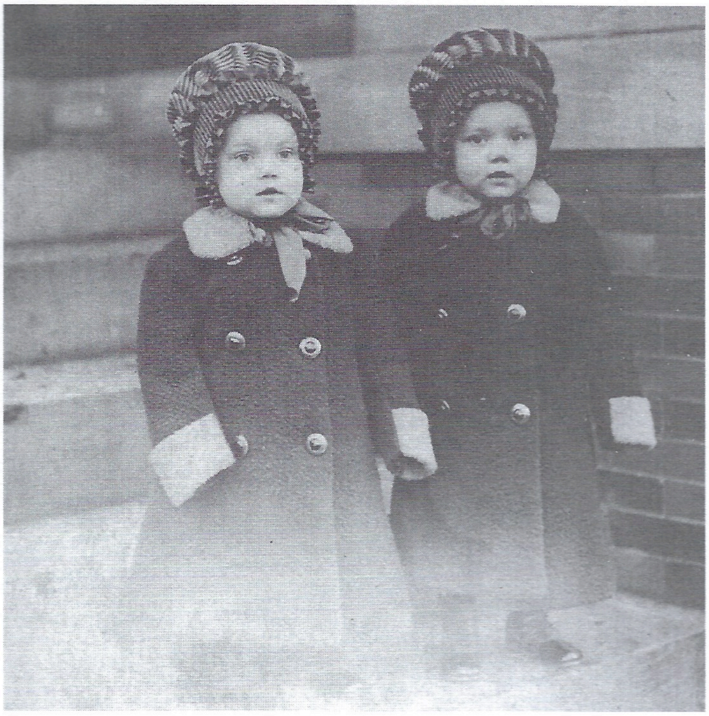
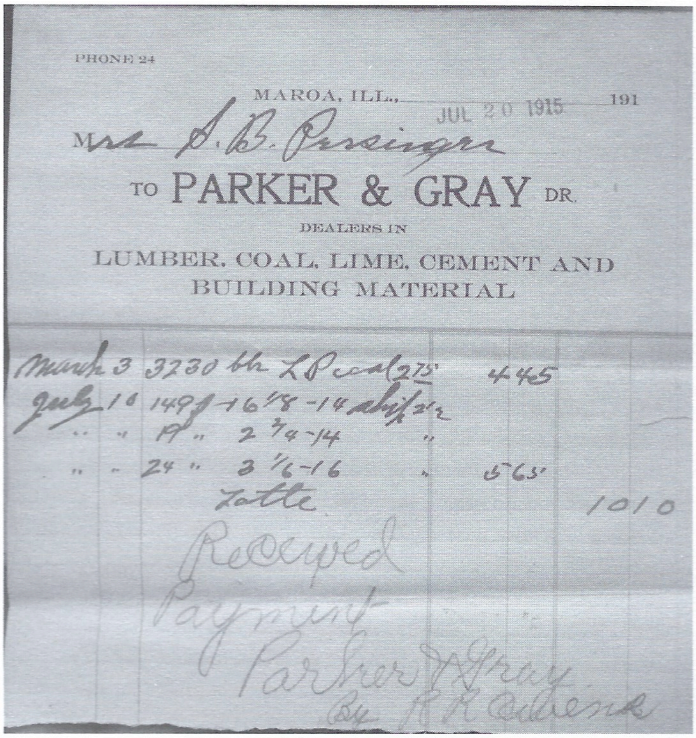


The twins, left Lois and Lenora Schroeder, taken in 1914. Courtesy of Larry Nix.



PHONE 24

MAROA, ILL., JUL 20 1915 191

Mrs S. B. Persinger

TO **PARKER & GRAY** DR.

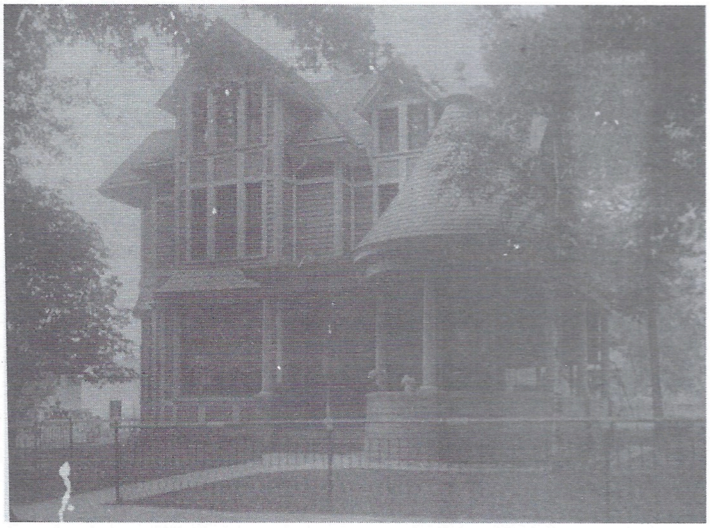
DEALERS IN

LUMBER, COAL, LIME, CEMENT AND BUILDING MATERIAL

March 3 3230 lbs L P coal @ 2.75 4 45
July 10 149 ft 1-6 1/8-14 ship 2½
" " 19 " 2 3/4-14 "
" " 24 " 2 1/6-16 " 5 65
Totle 10 10

Received Payment
Parker & Gray
By R R Cadwell

A receipt from Parker and Gray . Phone 24 if you need them. Courtesy of Larry Nix.



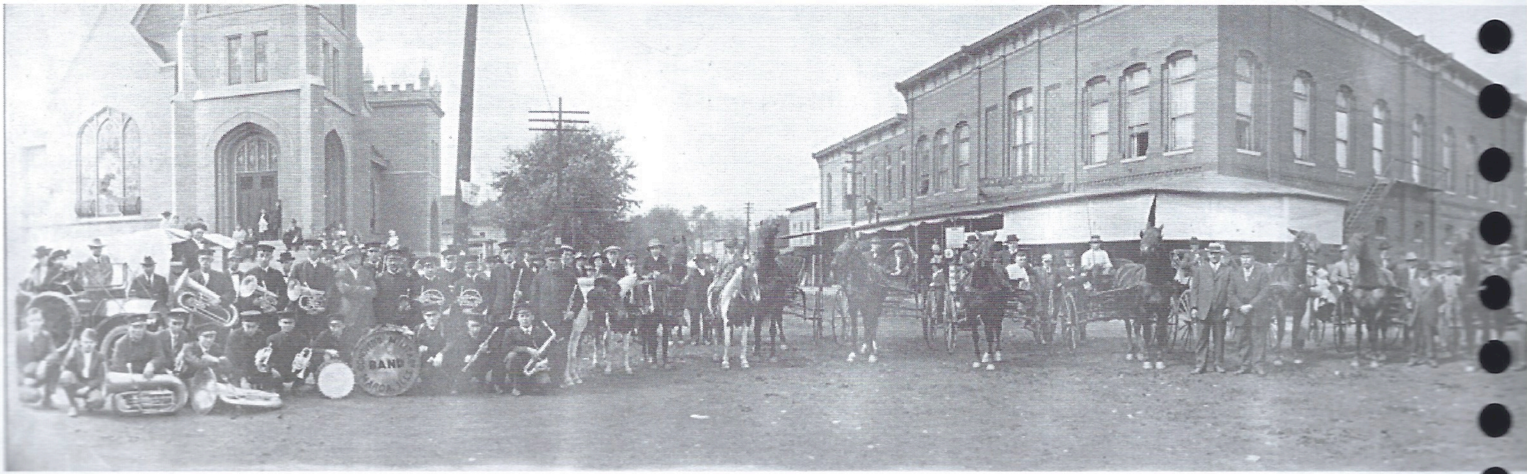
219 South Walnut street as a new house. The Crocker house was actually remodeled several times during its early life.

BILL MITCHELL
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
87TH DISTRICT

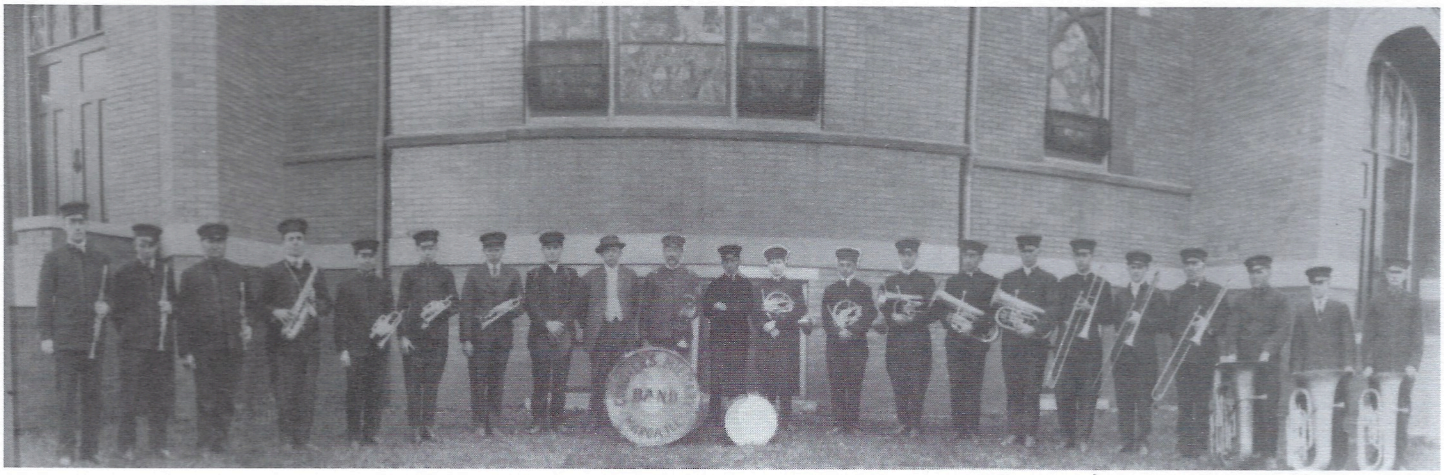
240-W STRATTON BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
(217) 782-8163

332 W. MARION, SUITE N-1
FORSYTH, ILLINOIS 62535
(217) 876-1968

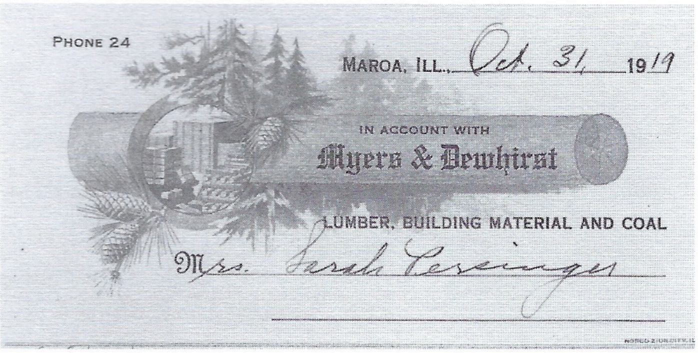
repmitchell@earthlink.net



This 1915 horse show panoramic picture was taken from the south side of Walnut and Main street corner. Note the Presbyterian



The Conover Military band in front of the Presbyterian Church cir 1910.



PHONE 24

MAROA, ILL., Oct. 31, 1919

IN ACCOUNT WITH

Myers & Dewhirst

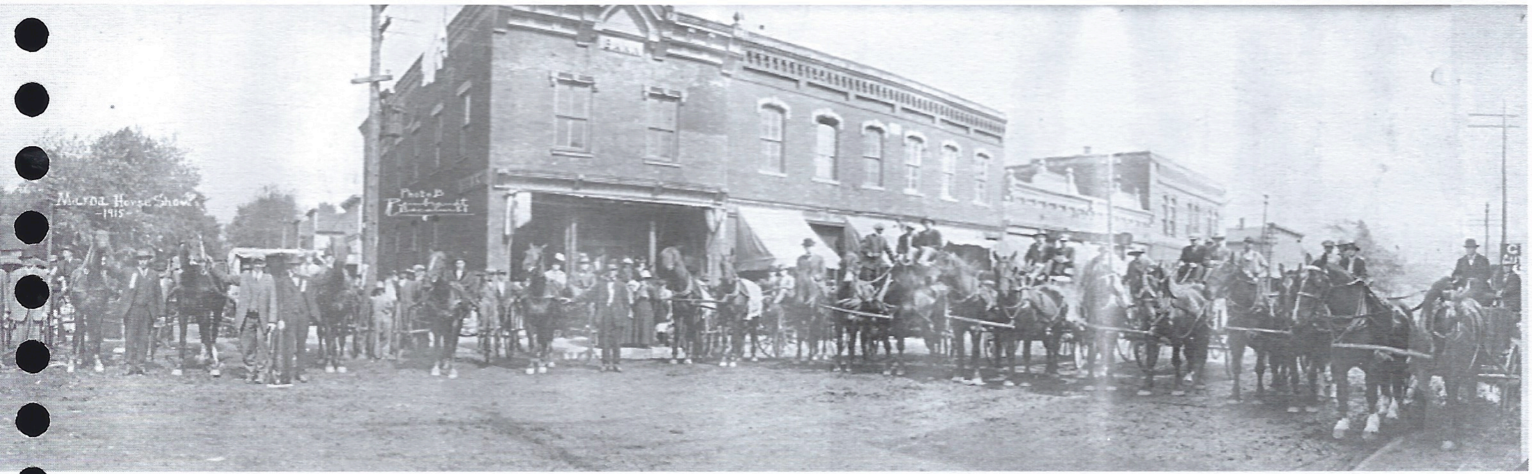
LUMBER, BUILDING MATERIAL AND COAL

Mrs. Sarah Persinger

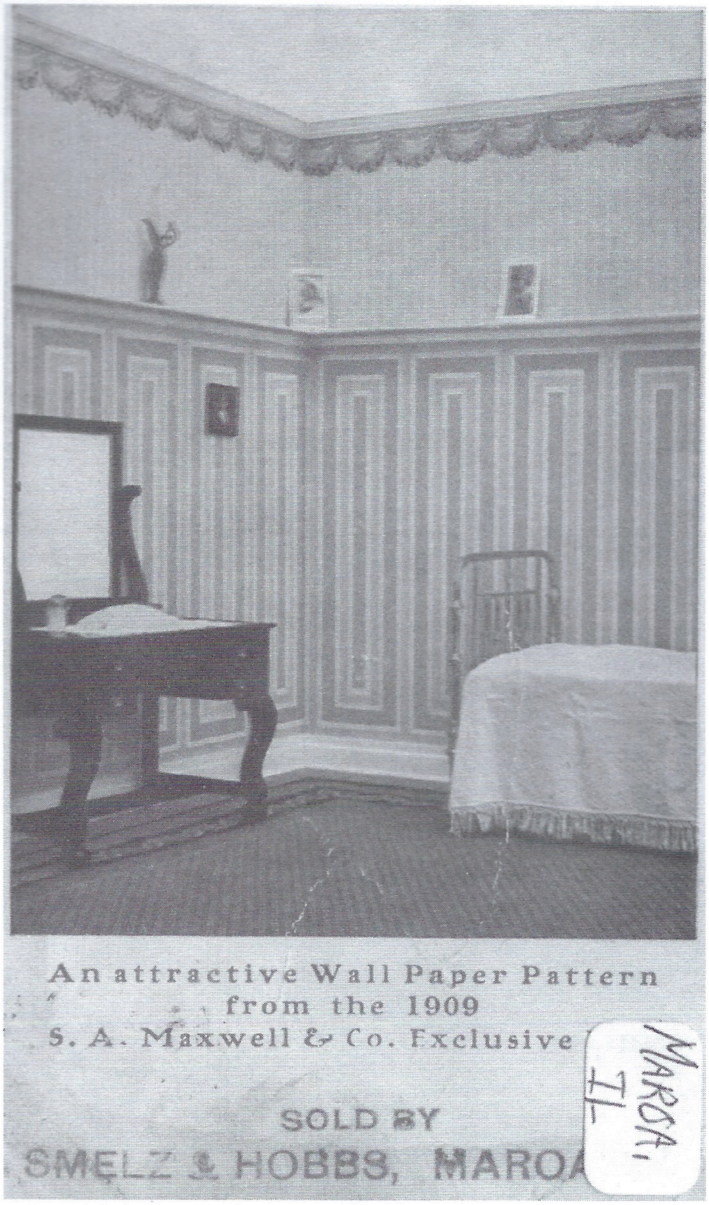
This 1919 Myers & Dewhirst receipt shows some of the materials available.

1920 picture of John Larson.

1913 4th of July Parade



Church on the left where Conover's Military Band is seated, north Walnut Street in the center and Main Street to the left and right.

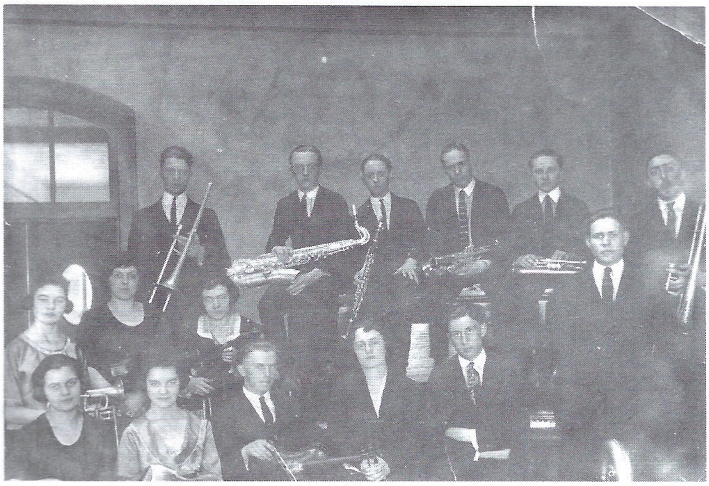


An attractive Wall Paper Pattern
from the 1909
S. A. Maxwell & Co. Exclusive

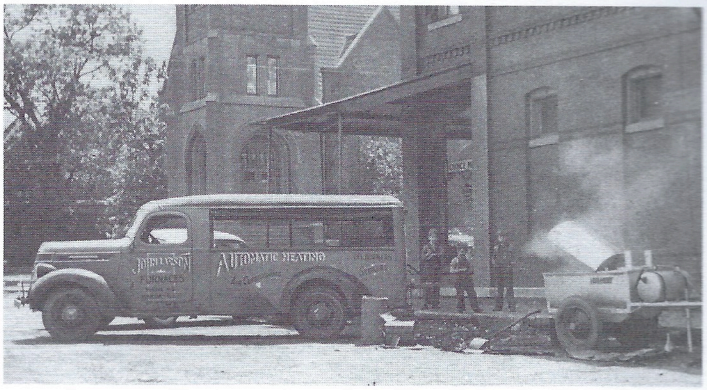
SOLD BY
SMELZ & HOBBS, MAROA

MAROA, IL

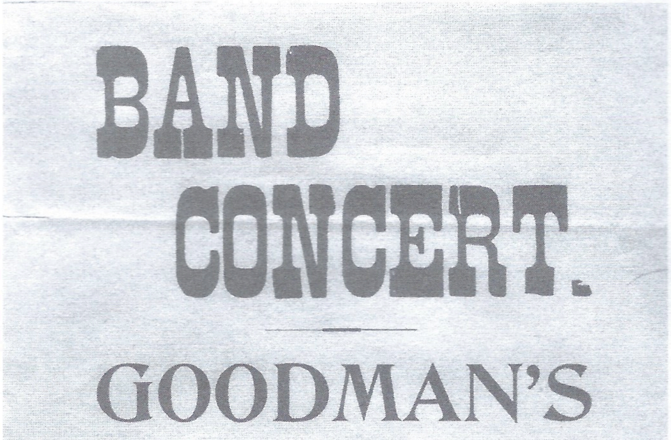
An advertisement from Smelz and Hobbs in Maroa. Interesting how that pattern looks familiar. Courtesy of Larry Nix.



1920 Picture of Maroa Community Band.



1940 photo of the Larson Hardware van.



BAND CONCERT.

GOODMAN'S

Celebrated

BAND

of Decatur, consisting of 25 pieces, with Prof. Walters as director, will give a free open air concent in

MAROA ILL.

Thursday

June 13th.

Concert begins at 7 p. m. Don't miss this rare treat. Everybody invited.

This band Concert flyer celebrates a rare treat. The exact year is unknown, but thought to be cir 1900's. The hand written note on the back shows names that are familiar to Maroans: Dine-Alto, Joe Hult-tenor, Stoutenborough -baritone, Friedman - Clarinet, Pathow - Tube, Biddle - Alto, Barnuldi Bas, Kempshall - Tenor, Brown -Clarinet, Brunnill - Clarinet, C. Bennett - Tenor, L Albardy -Cornet, Persinger - Clarinet, Jenkins.

1880 2004

Phone 32 Res. 105R2

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LOANS - REAL ESTATE

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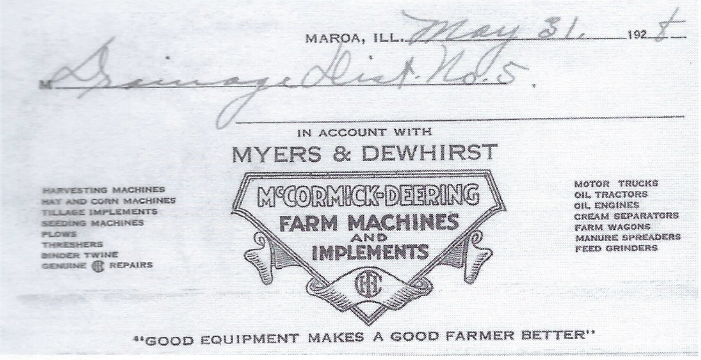
125 West Main St.
Maroa, IL 61756

217-794-2245
Toll Free: **888-314-2212**

E-Mail:
bill.sia@ locomp.net



MAROA, ILL. May 31. 1928

M Drainage Dist. No. 5.

IN ACCOUNT WITH

MYERS & DEWHIRST

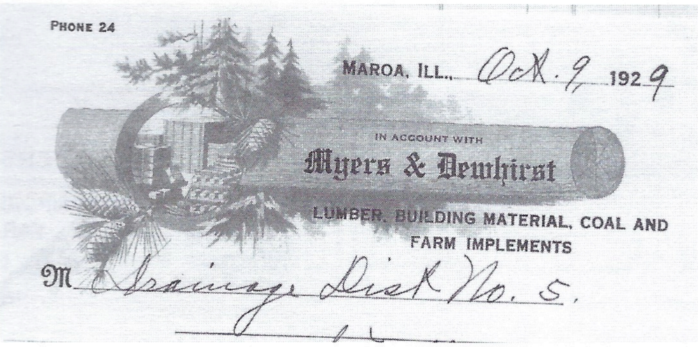
HARVESTING MACHINES
HAY AND CORN MACHINES
TILLAGE IMPLEMENTS
SEEDING MACHINES
PLOWS
THRESHERS
BINDER TWINE
GENUINE IHC REPAIRS

McCORMICK-DEERING
FARM MACHINES
AND
IMPLEMENTS
IHC

MOTOR TRUCKS
OIL TRACTORS
OIL ENGINES
CREAM SEPARATORS
FARM WAGONS
MANURE SPREADERS
FEED GRINDERS

"GOOD EQUIPMENT MAKES A GOOD FARMER BETTER"

This Myers & Dewhirst receipt shows the different items stocked by the business that is the current Maroa Lumber Company.



PHONE 24

MAROA, ILL. Oct. 9, 1929

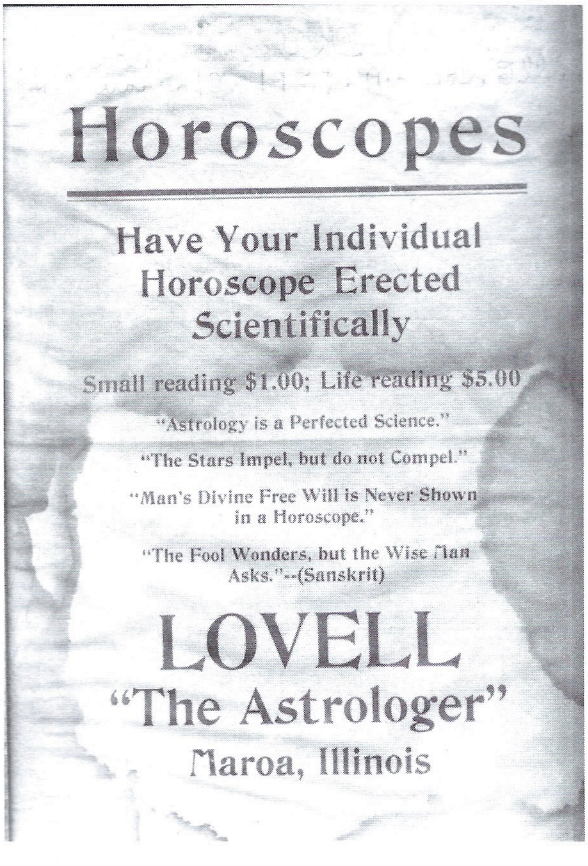
IN ACCOUNT WITH

Myers & Dewhirst

LUMBER, BUILDING MATERIAL, COAL AND
FARM IMPLEMENTS

M Drainage Dist. No. 5.

This 1929 receipt shows the addition of the Farm Implements to the business.



Horoscopes

Have Your Individual
Horoscope Erected
Scientifically

Small reading $1.00; Life reading $5.00

"Astrology is a Perfected Science."

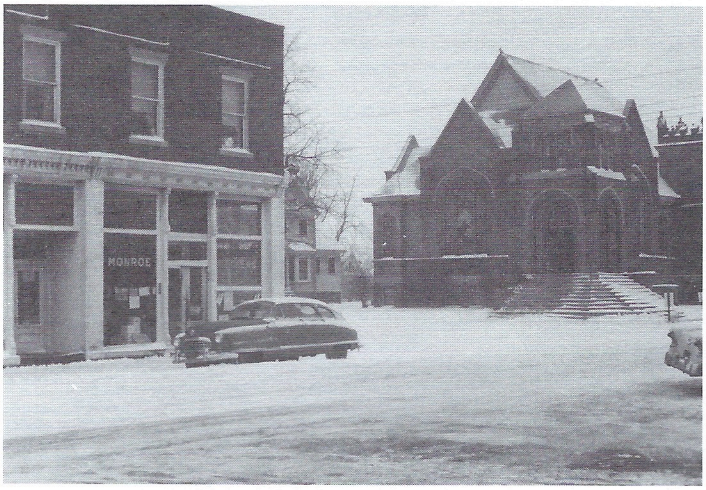
"The Stars Impel, but do not Compel."

"Man's Divine Free Will is Never Shown in a Horoscope."

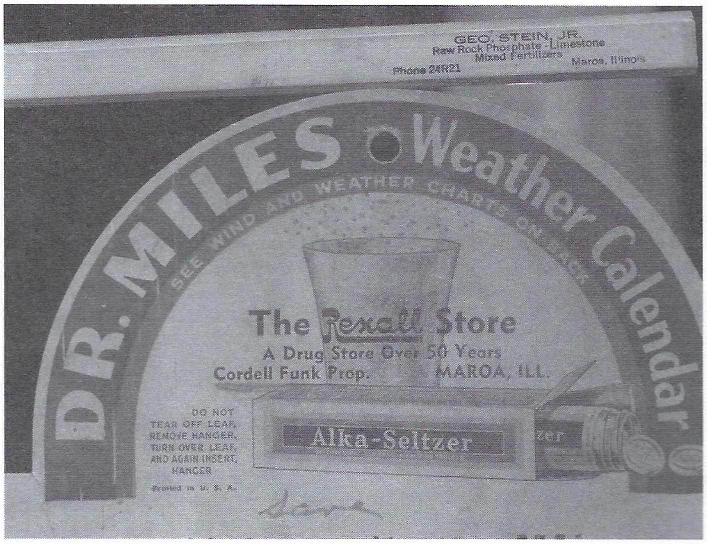
"The Fool Wonders, but the Wise Man Asks."--(Sanskrit)

LOVELL
"The Astrologer"
Maroa, Illinois

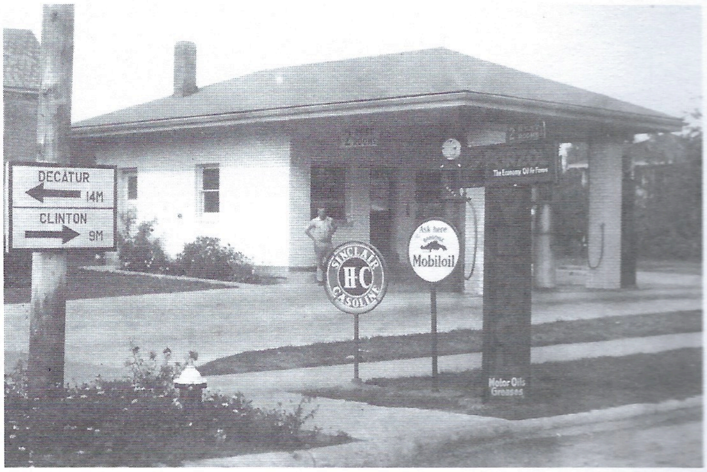
William Lovel Crum in 1926 was helping others in the 'perfect science'. Courtesy of Larry Nix.



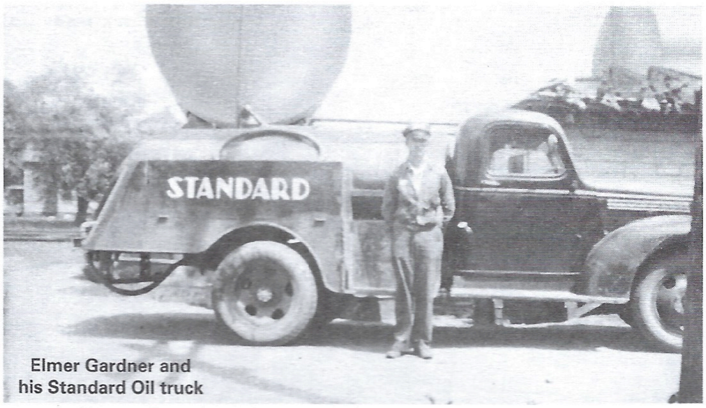
Monroe Locker in 1930.


GEO. STEIN, JR.
Raw Rock Phosphate - Limestone
Mixed Fertilizers
Phone 24R21
Maroa, Illinois
DR. MILES Weather Calendar
SEE WIND AND WEATHER CHARTS ON BACK
The Rexall Store
A Drug Store Over 50 Years
Cordell Funk Prop. MAROA, ILL.
DO NOT TEAR OFF LEAF, REMOVE HANGER, TURN OVER LEAF, AND AGAIN INSERT HANGER
Printed in U. S. A.
Alka-Seltzer

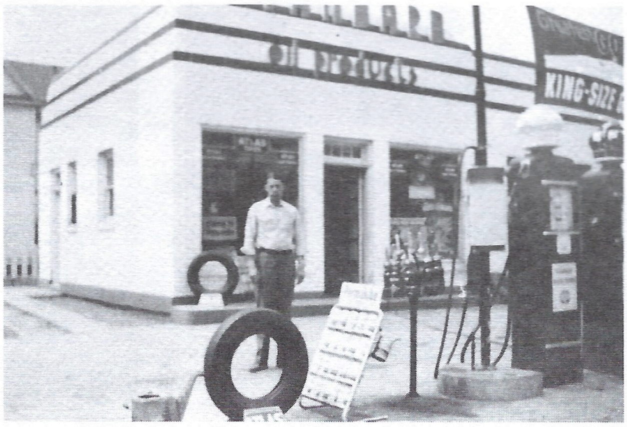
Advertising in 1930


DECATUR 14M
CLINTON 9M
SINCLAIR H-C GASOLINE
Ask here Mobiloil
Motor Oils Greases

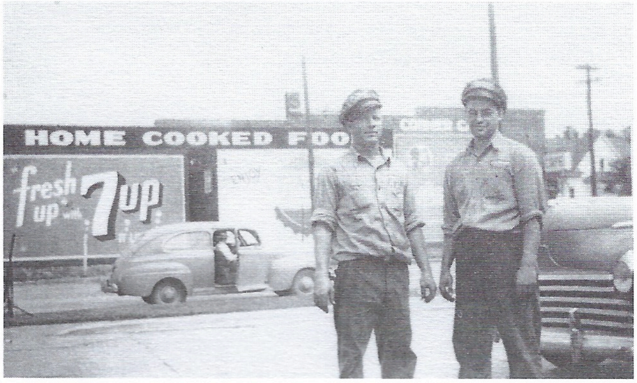
Standard Station at Wood and Main. Courtesy of Larry Nix.


STANDARD
Elmer Gardner and
his Standard Oil truck

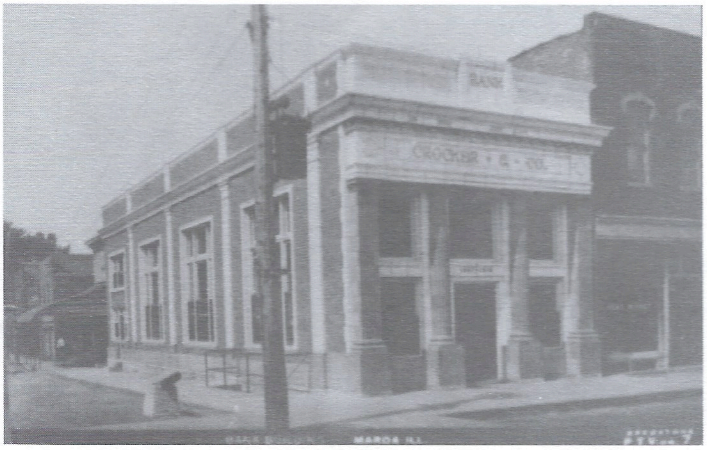
Elmer Gardner with his Standard Oil truck. The picture was taken cir 1930"s.


Oil products
KING-SIZE

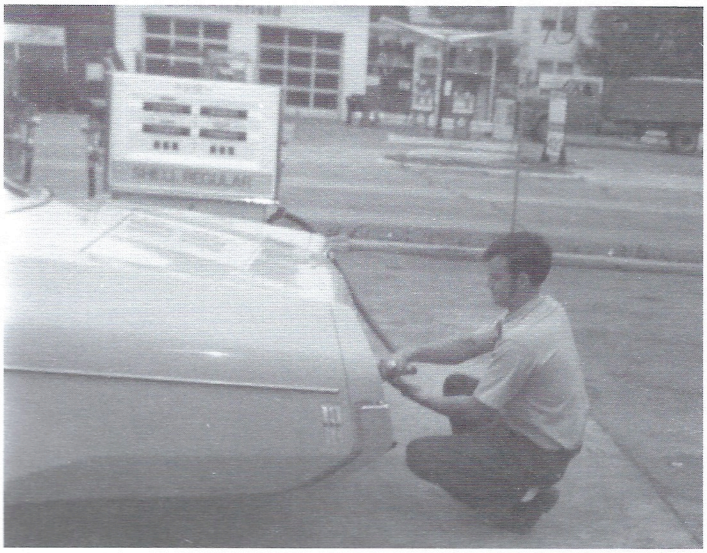
The Standard Oil station in 1954.


HOME COOKED FOO
fresh up with 7up

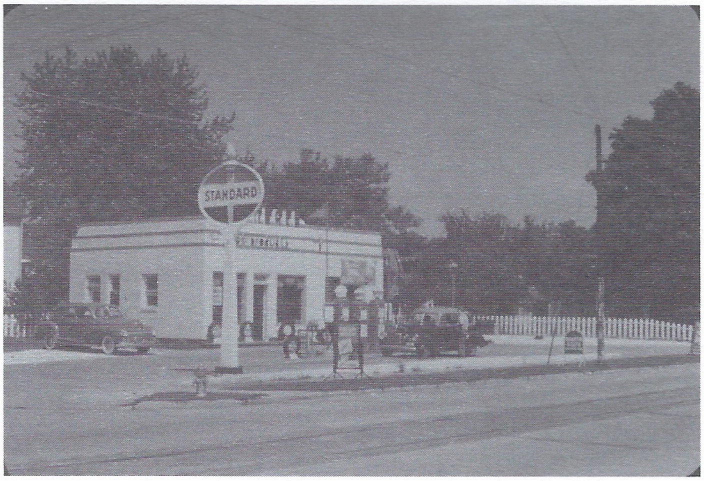
Left Willie Osborne, Roy Marlatt Corner café in the background Standard Station taken in 1949


BANK
CROCKER & CO.

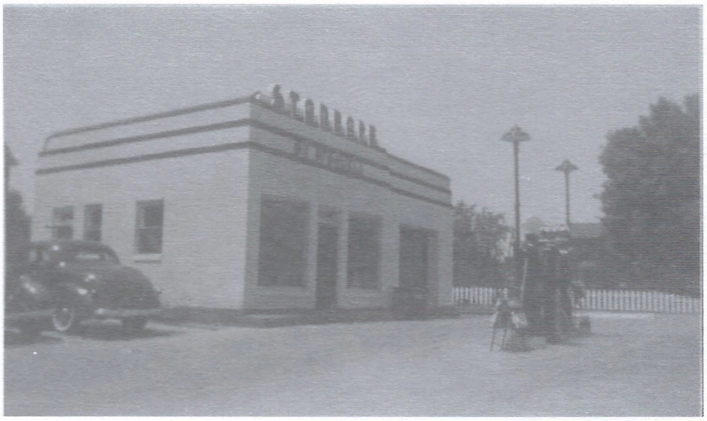
1940 picture of Bank with the "Cannon" on the West side. The cannon was volunteered for the scrap drive during WWII. Courtesy of Larry Nix.


SHELL REGULAR

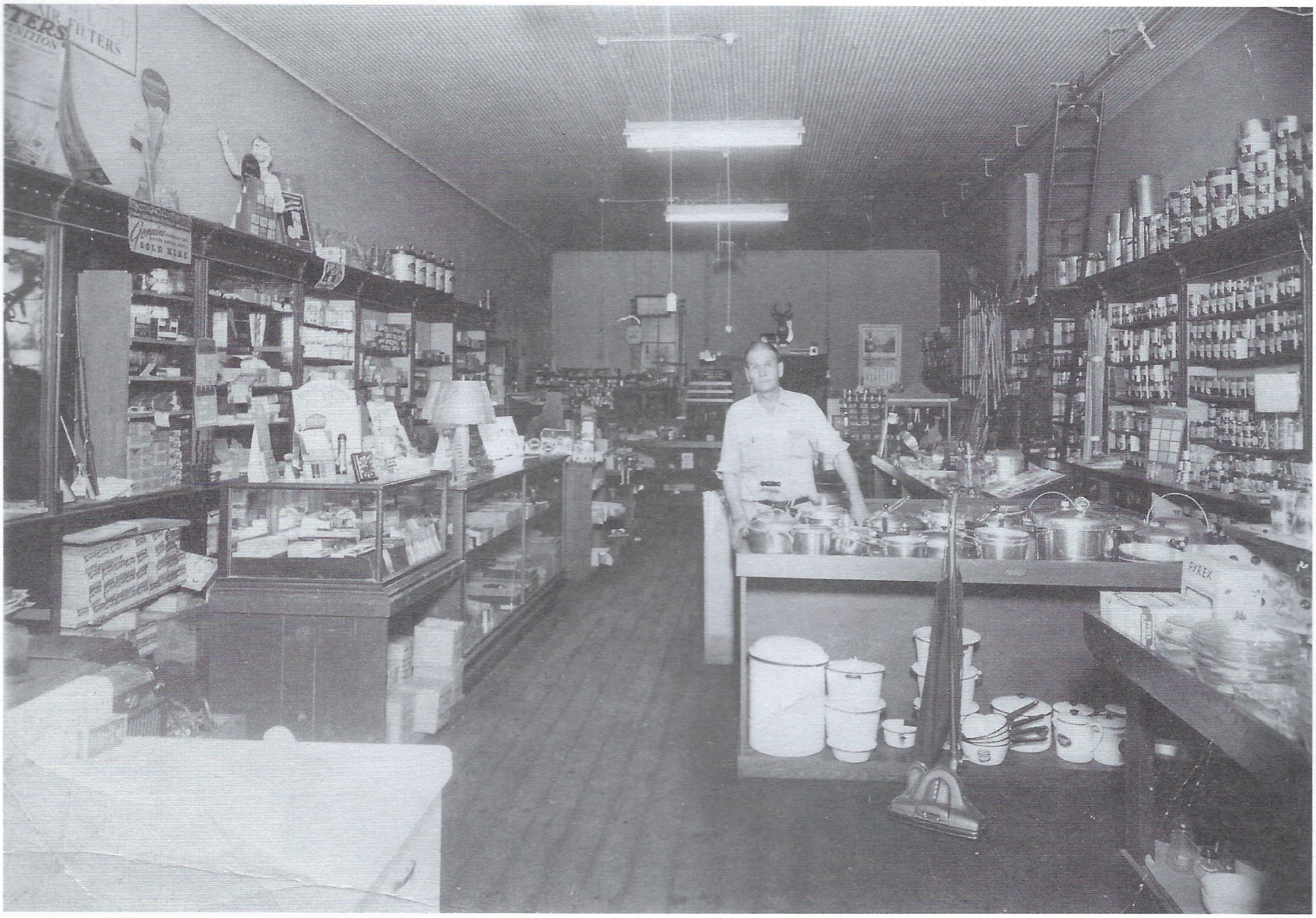
Gary Brelsford, new owner of the Shell station in June 1973, is pumping gasoline for a customer. This was a common practice at all gas stations at that time. Gary and Tom Marlatt became partners in 1975 and they partnered together until 1977.



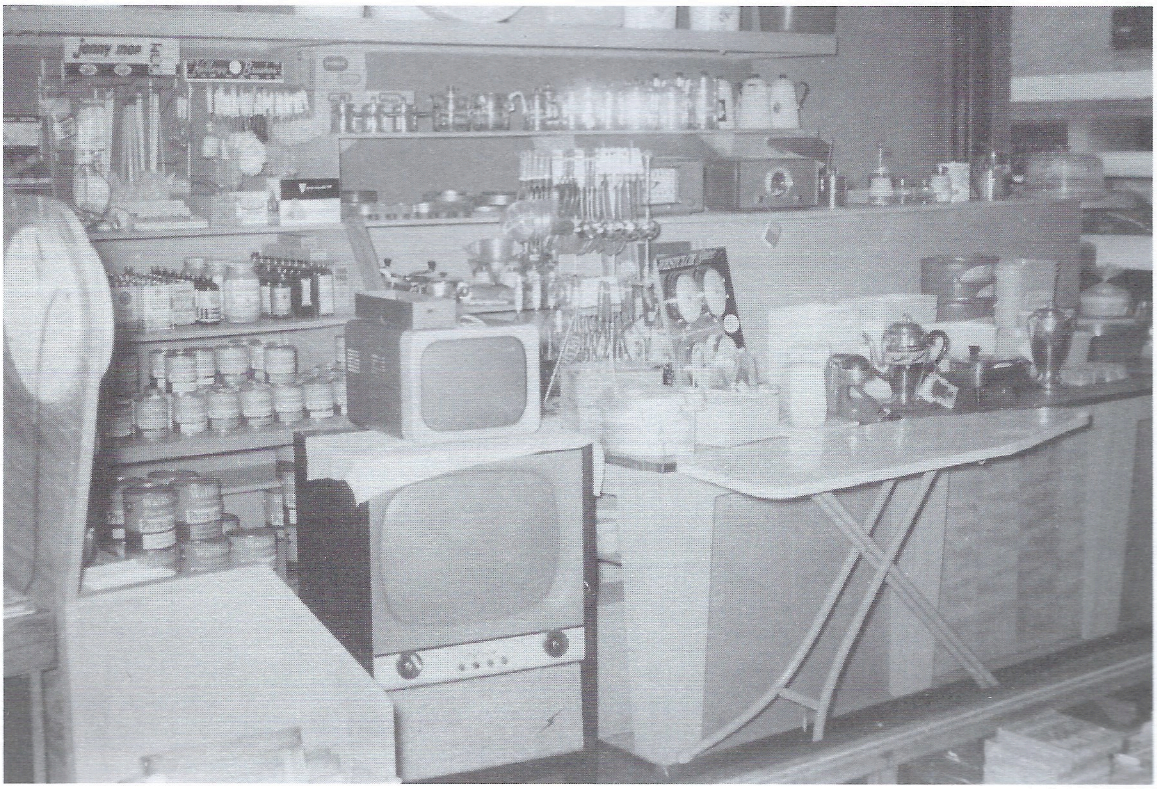
Picture of the Standard Oil station in 1949. Courtesy of Larry Nix.



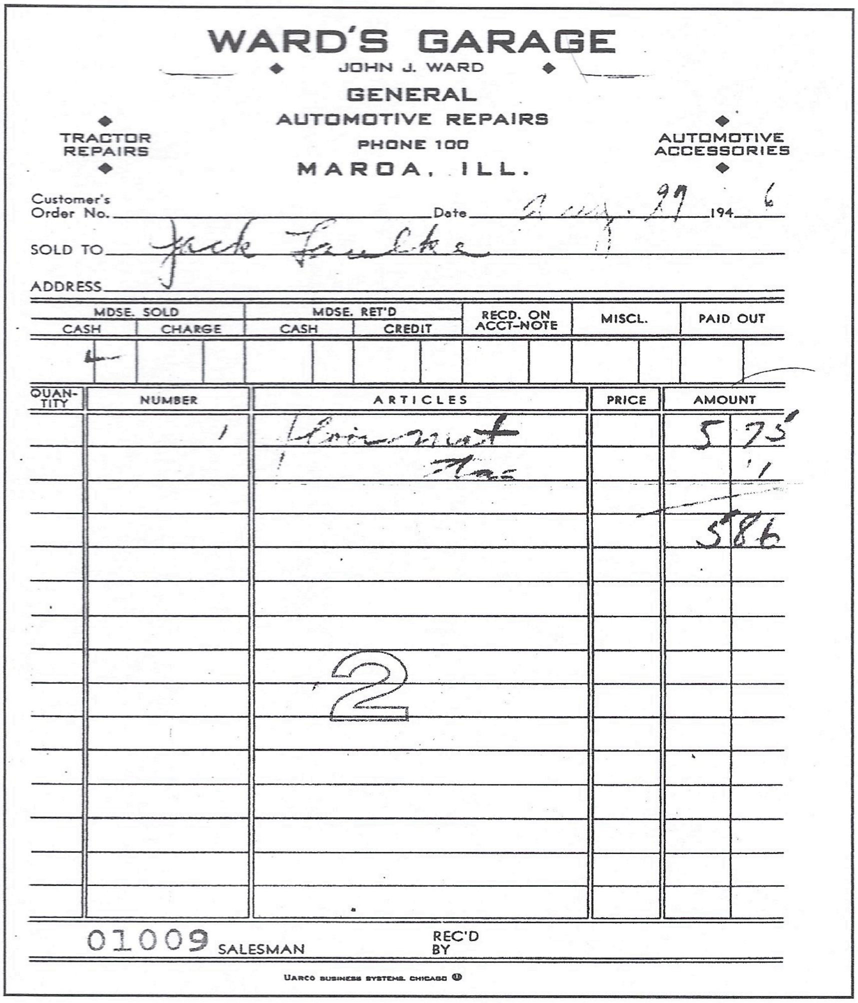
Picture of new Standard Oil station in 1940's. It was on the northwest corner of Main and Wood street. Courtesy of Larry Nix.



1940 photo of Larson Hardware.



1960 Larson T.V.



WARD'S GARAGE
JOHN J. WARD
GENERAL
AUTOMOTIVE REPAIRS
PHONE 100
MAROA, ILL.

TRACTOR REPAIRS
AUTOMOTIVE ACCESSORIES

Customer's Order No. ____ Date Aug. 29 1946
SOLD TO Jack Faulke
ADDRESS

MDSE. SOLD		MDSE. RET'D		RECD. ON ACCT-NOTE	MISCL.	PAID OUT
CASH	CHARGE	CASH	CREDIT			
4						

QUAN-TITY	NUMBER	ARTICLES	PRICE	AMOUNT
	1	[illegible]		5 75
	1	Tax		11
				5 86

01009 SALESMAN REC'D BY

UARCO BUSINESS SYSTEMS, CHICAGO

Another unique business's letterhead for this 1946 business.

TIDBIT

I remember when we first moved in, we had so much trouble working on our projects in our home because so many of our neighbors came to welcome us and encourage us in our taking care of our house. We spent much of those first months giving tours of what we hope to do with the home. We are fortunate that later we were able to show off some of our finished accomplishments by decorating our home for the Christmas Tour of Homes during our home's 100th birthday in 2001. We had a string quartet, piano player, and almost 400 people came through to celebrate and enjoy our home with us that Christmas!

Ray Ramirez DVM Sesquicentennial committee member age 43

BROWN, HAWKINS,
BASOLA & MATTINGLEY
- LAWYERS-

Your Full Service Law Firm

Rex L. Brown
Elmer C. Hawkins
Joseph W. Basola
Gregory A. Mattingley
Britt A. Brown
Jeffery J. Hawkins

Serving the Maroa Community
For More Than Half A Century

In Loving Memory of our Parents

David L. Moyer
1921 - 1994

Helen M. Fritchley Moyer
1923 - 1976

James R. Moyer, Sherri Moyer Roberts,
John D. Moyer

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I.C.R.R. FOUNDS MAROA GIVES IT SHARE IN HISTORY
CITY BELIEVED TO BE NAMED AFTER INDIAN TRIBE

Even before Lewis and Clarke made their historic exploratory trip upstream of the Missouri River in 1802-1804, Marquette and Joliet ventured from the Michigan Great Lake, down the Mississippi River. Both men made meticulous notes as they traveled in their two birch bark canoes down unchartered river wilderness in 1672. As they traveled back home, Fr. Jacques Marquette fell ill and died one year later. When Louis Joliet was up in Canada with further explorations, he nearly lost his life in a canoe accident. But with that all of his travel notes from the river travels with his friend, Fr. Jacques Marquette, were lost. Thus the Marquette map is the only remaining notes from that exploration.

Notice that while the map may not quite be to scale, it is obvious the name "Maroa" is in the section of land east of the river they had traveled. It is unclear how they came upon that name.

A picturesque prairie wilderness, scathed only by occasional animal and Indian paths and a sprinkling of small frontier settlements, was the sweep of territory known as "interior" Illinois back in the early 1800s. That part of the countryside which we today call "home," Maroa, was only another speck on this unending plain of rank grass and shaggy groves.

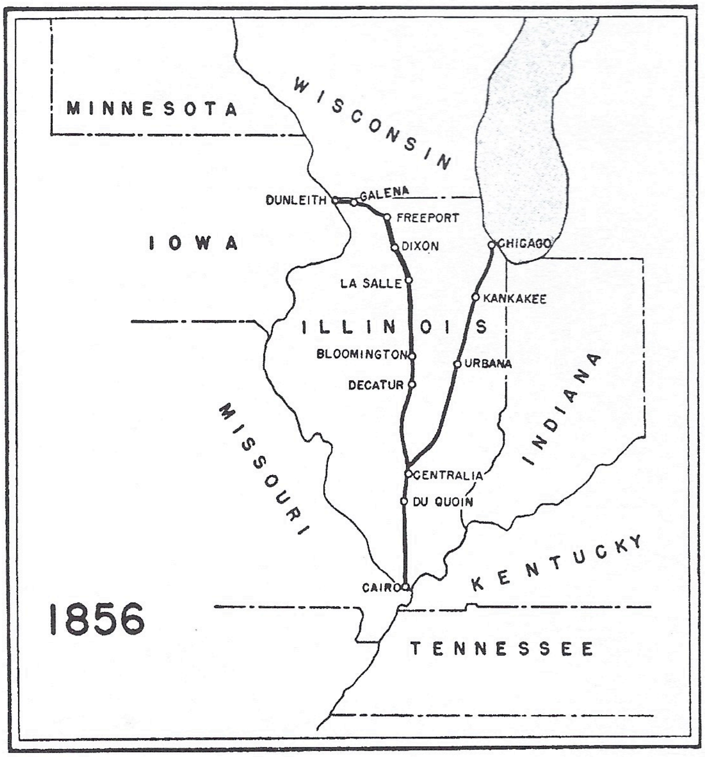
The borning of Maroa was to await the coming of a remarkable new development in the world's culture, the steam engine and its railroads. It had, to be more exact, to await the then stupendous development of a "central railroad" project, the Illinois Central Railroad Company.

It was Sept. 11, 1854, that the Illinois Central road completed the trackage between the settlements of Decatur and Clinton. And it was at that time, when the need arose for an operational station between these two frontier points, that Maroa was started. Its first evidence in history was a station house. Its first inhabitant was the railroad agent.

Here, indeed, was the railroad that all Illinois had so long awaited. Stretching its crude rails for over 700 miles (between Cairo and Galena, and Centralia and Chicago), it not only earned the proud reputation as the longest railroad in the world but it gave to the state an opportunity to breathe life into the vast agriculture and commerce potential.

Railroad Names Maroa

To Maroa, the Illinois Central meant the founding of the very town itself. Giving Maroa a name, a station, a place on the map, it went on to transport its first citizens. It brought farming people out of the East, even from the Old World (Europe), to plow down the prairie grass and cultivate tall corn. And it gave Maroa a



Charter lines completed in 1856. The final rail was spiked down on September 27, 1856, some 70 miles south of Urbana-Champaign. When completed, the 705-mile line was the longest railroad in the world. *(Illinois Central Railroad)*

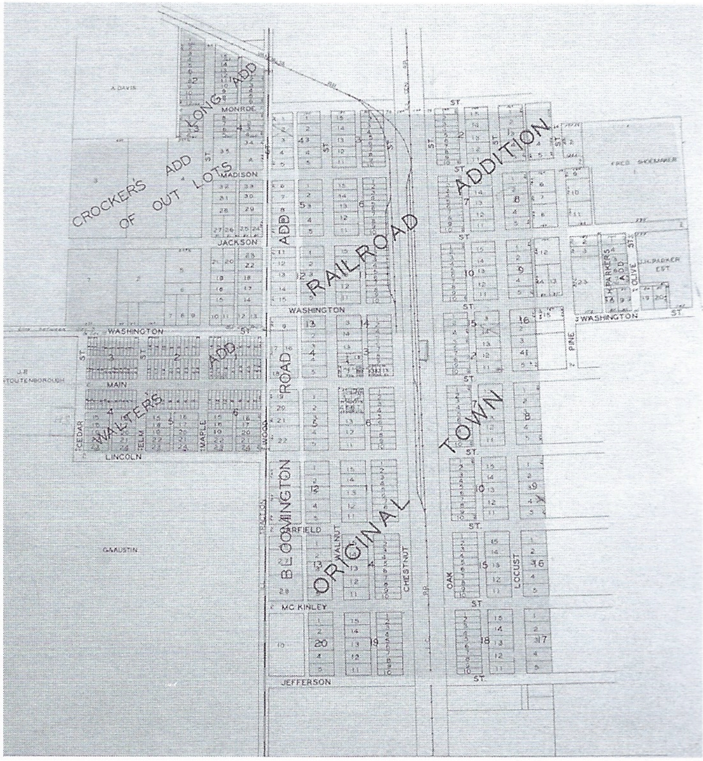
The last steam engine that went down the track of the Illinois Central Railroad in this 1940's era picture taken just south of Maroa. The Illinois Central Railroad continued to run diesel engines along the track until the tracks were removed in the late 1970's.

chance to be associated with the historic figures and events of the time- Lincoln, Douglas, General McClellan: and the Civil War and the Great Chicago Fire.

The name "Maroa" itself was probably supplied by railroad officials. The record is not clear on the naming of Maroa, yet it was the practice of the road to assign a name to the station when it was built. Many stations along the line were named in honor of prominent railroad people or personages of the day.

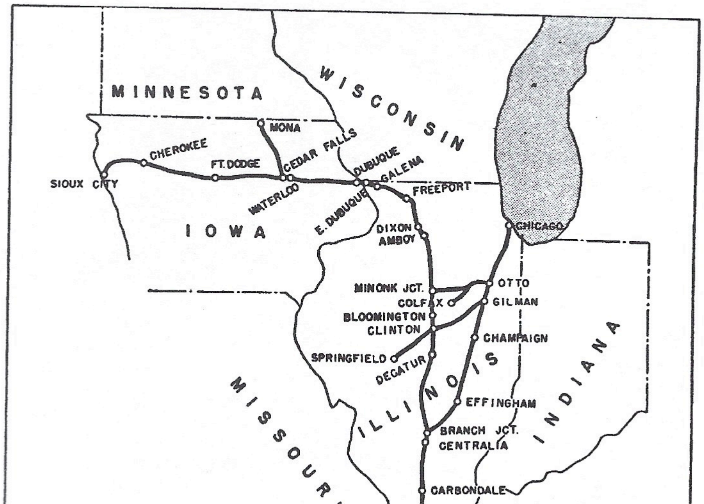
Concerning the origin of the name, Maroa, two theories have been carried down through local generations. Perhaps the best known story is the one reporting Maroa to have been so named from an alphabetic drawing from a hat. The tale goes that letters from the alphabet were dumped into a hat, five letters drawn, and the name Maroa formed. This theory does not explain the duplication of the letter "a." And in other respects, this means of gaining a name seems too improbable to be believed.

Another piece of information collected during the research of the book in 2004 found an article from the Illinois Central Magazine. It is a magazine for employees of the Illinois Central Railroad. In the January 1922 edition on pages 40-44, there is an article titled: Romance found in many station names, Illinois Pioneers are commemorated, as are the Indians and the Company's early officials.


LONG ADD
CROCKERS ADD OF OUT LOTS
RAILROAD ADDITION
RAILROAD ADD
WALTERS ADD
BLOOMINGTON ROAD
ORIGINAL TOWN
MONROE
MADISON
JACKSON
WASHINGTON
MAIN
LINCOLN
GARFIELD
MC KINLEY
JEFFERSON
WALNUT
CHESTNUT
OAK
LOCUST
PINE
CEDAR
ELM
MAPLE
ST

Town plat with railroad and traction (circa 1930)

The article starts: If you would have your name remembered, bestow it upon some town. Then, long after you are dead, your name will be invoked on every car of every passenger train that stops at the station you christened. Pioneers of Illinois have thus been fittingly commemorated along the lines of the Illinois Central in the state whose name it bears. Some station names, of course, are merely descriptive of the locality, and some are duplications of other station names back East or in the old countries, while others have been manufactured for the occasion. But for the most part, those that Illinois Central employees are familiar with are the names of pioneers or of explorers or of the native Indian inhabitants who held the ground before explorer or pioneer arrived.


MINNESOTA
WISCONSIN
IOWA
MISSOURI
ILLINOIS
INDIANA
KENTUCKY
TENNESSEE
ARK.
MONA
CHEROKEE
FT. DODGE
CEDAR FALLS
SIOUX CITY
WATERLOO
DUBUQUE
GALENA
E. DUBUQUE
FREEPORT
DIXON
AMBOY
CHICAGO
MINONK JCT.
COLFAX
OTTO
GILMAN
BLOOMINGTON
CLINTON
CHAMPAIGN
SPRINGFIELD
DECATUR
EFFINGHAM
BRANCH JCT.
CENTRALIA
CARBONDALE
CAIRO
1880

Illinois Central in 1880. The map shows the new lines acquired in Illinois during the 1870s. *(Illinois Central Railroad)*

By R. B. Gray, Advertising Agent

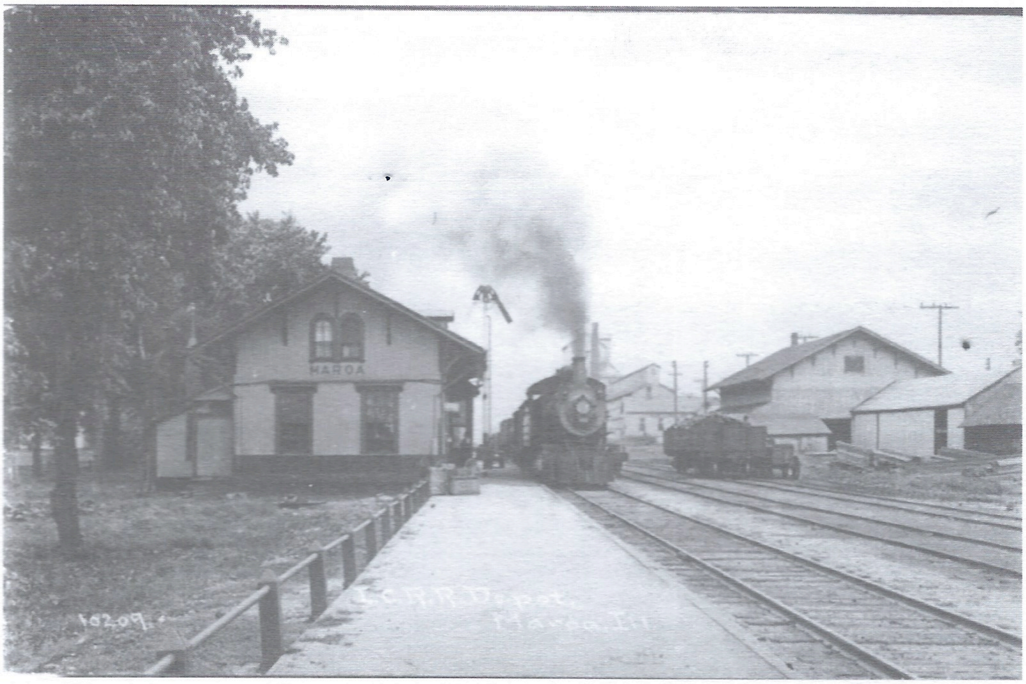
February 20, 1883, William K Ackerman, then president of the Illinois Central Railroad, read before the Chicago Historical Society a paper on early Illinois railroads. The following year, his

J. M. Persinger's Hardware Store. Mr. Persinger at right, Howard Glassford at left.

address was published, together with a series of notes by John Wentworth, on the origin of the names of many Illinois Central stations in Illinois. From this publication the following accounts were gleaned:

Peotone: is a Pottawatamie Indian word meaning "bring" or "come here."

Kankakee: is supposed to be a French corruption of an Indian name corrupted further by the early settlers. When La Salle in 1680 was exploring in the vicinity of the Kankakee River, that stream was called by the Indians Thiakiki or Haukiki, a name which, according to Charlevoix, was afterward changed by the French to Kiakiki, "Raven", whence probably came its present form.



Maroa ICRR train depot picture cir 1920
Photo courtesy of M&M Café

Tamaroa: was named by Nelson Holt, agent at that point from 1855 on. The Tamaroa Indians were one of the five tribes composing the Illinois Confederacy; the other members of the confederacy were the Mitchiganias, Kaskaskias, Peorias and Kahokias.

Bloomington: was formerly called Keg's Grove. Mrs. William Orendorff changed the name to Blooming Grove in 1824. James Allen in 1829 altered it to Bloomington.

Wapella: was named after Wapello, chief of the Foxes. According to one authority the word means "the little prince". In Sauk dialect, waup or waub means "he that is painted white".

Clinton: was named in honor of De Witt Clinton, an American Statesman, 1769-1828.

Maroa: derives its name from the Maroas, a sub-tribe of the Indian Confederacy known as the Illini.

Forsyth: was named after Robert Forsyth, general freight agent of the Illinois Central, 1856 - 1865.

Decatur was named after Commodore Stephen Decatur. Reprinted in part with permission.

Maroa Indian Tribe

The second story was that Maroa was an Indian name. The "why" or what Indian tribe was never made clear.

In 1954, additional new facts would substantiate the Indian origin of the name. In research by John W. Hobbs, former Maroan who was a Springfield manufacturer in 1950's he uncovered the previously mentioned map.

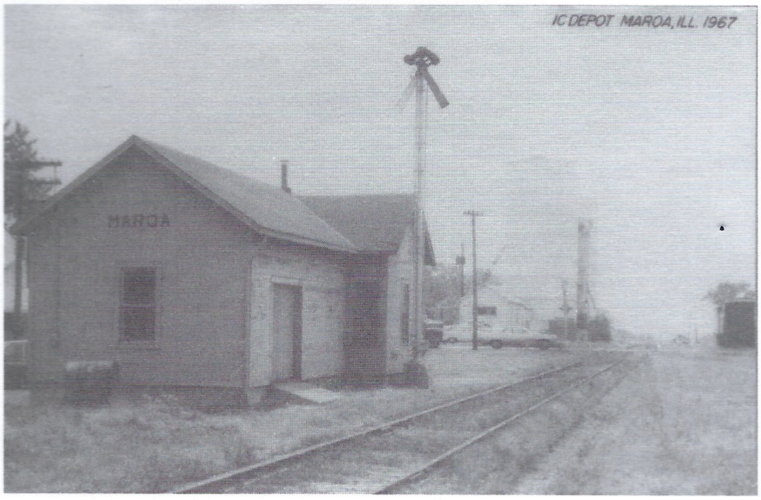
A map has been discovered which was drawn in 1673 by the early French explorer, Father Jacques Marquette, a Jesuit Catholic priest. On this map appears the name, M-A-R-0-A, apparently to identify the general location of an Indian tribe. Marquette's chart is of the eastern Mississippi region and it carries northward to Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. While it contains many inaccuracies, as we now understand the area, it does represent an accomplishment for the period.

The "Maroa" identification is about on a line with the present location of the town but nearer to the Illinois-Indiana line. Whether Marquette correctly placed the Maroa mark is doubtful. Perhaps the area should have been spotted more closely to this, a central location. Or again, there is the possibility that Marquette was completely accurate in this detail but that the tribe itself moved into this more immediate area during the 1700s.

Black Hawk War

It must be remembered that those of the early Illinois Central days were 100 years closer to Indian history than we of today. It's quite within reason, considering Marquette's map, that railroad officials had good historical reason for giving the Indian name of Maroa to this locality.

But whether there is truth or fiction to the derivation of Maroa from an Indian tribe name, there is no question about the Illinois Central stemming from the Indians. That is, from trouble with the Red Men.



The Train depot in 1967 along the Illinois Central Railroad. Courtesy of Larry Nix.

It was 1832. The Black Hawk Indians were warring against the White Man, harassing his western push across the Mississippi. Illinois men were called from their frontier homes to the fight.

Conduct of the Black Hawk war was seriously impaired because of an inability to assemble and then move troops rapidly. Illinois realized then as never before that it needed railroads. The state in the 1830s had only 160,000 people, and most of these were clustered along river points. There were but three principal settlements, Galena, Chicago and Peoria.

Central Railroad Project

The remainder of Illinois was practically an untamed wilderness. Fanning from its rivers were some of the most fertile acres in the world, yet the area was almost useless because of its lack of transportation and accessibility to markets.

With the Black Hawks subdued, the first order of business with the legislature and state civic leaders was establishment of a vital north-south railroad. It was agreed that the road should cut through the state's approximate center. For this reason, it was known as the "central railroad" project.

Many groups, backed by the legislature, made several attempts to organize such a line. But all these early tries were stalled before they could hardly get well started. The state itself was burdened with debt and could offer little financial assistance. Eastern banking circles doubted the future of Illinois. England was coldly indifferent. Several early settlers of the state lost their personal fortunes in a futile attempt to build the road.

Finally, it was Stephen A. Douglas, the historic adversary of Lincoln, who indirectly accomplished what others had failed to do. His method of financing a railroad was the unheard-of "land grant" proposition, presented to Congress when he was a senator. This scheme provided that the federal government give to Illinois a right-of-way and alternate sections of land, in checkerboard fashion, along the route for a distance of six miles on either side. The alternate sections could be sold by the Railroad Company for the purpose of gaining funds for railroad construction.

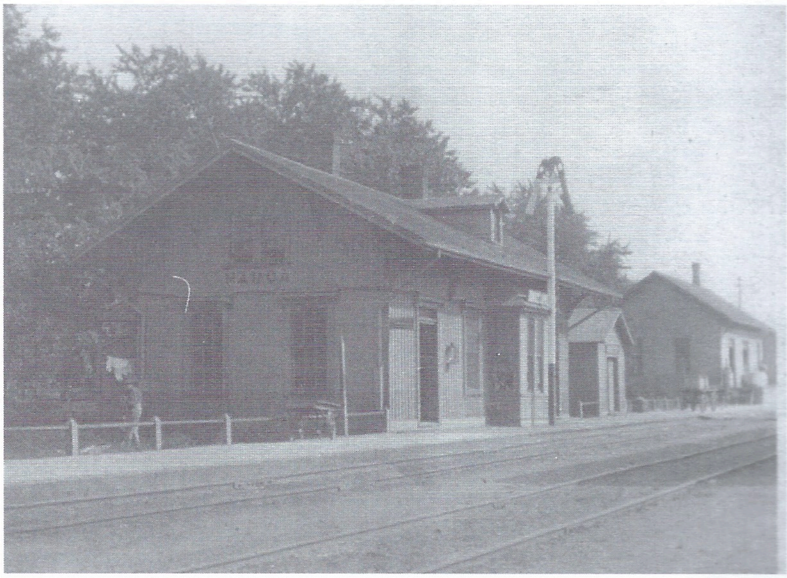
People Rush to Illinois

Construction of the Illinois Central resulted in a land boom in Illinois that approached, in enthusiasm and reckless migration, the historic rush for gold in the West. Men and families came from Ohio, the New England states, even England and Germany. The railroad put on a tremendous advertising campaign, and established land offices in principal cities.

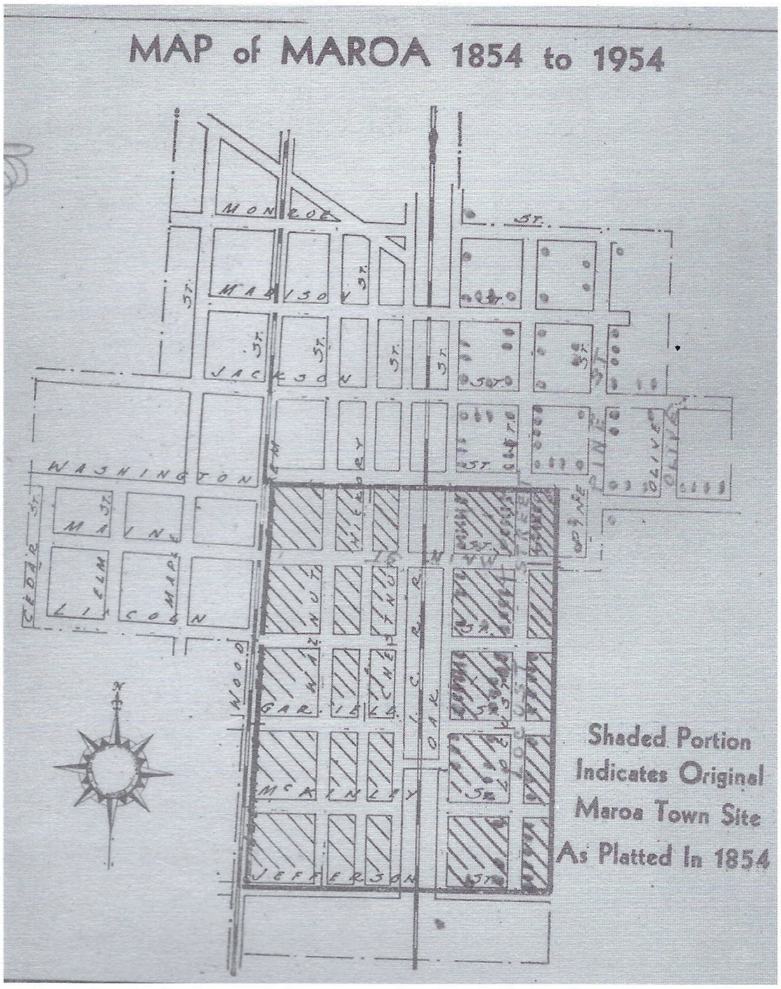
The land around Maroa and other points along the road was advertised at $8 to $12 an acre. Within two years the railroad had sold all its allotted land. Some of the older families of Maroa hold today those very farms that were purchased by their forebears from the Illinois Central.

Towns, like Maroa, were quick to develop. Activity sprang from the stations, streets were laid out, schools and churches planned and stores opened. One person reporting the transformation of this raw country said, "The growth of the country is incredible."

Before the railroad was built, corn sold for 5 to 8 cents. Now, with the Illinois Central running and connecting Maroa and other farm communities with markets, corn jumped to 25 to 40 cents.

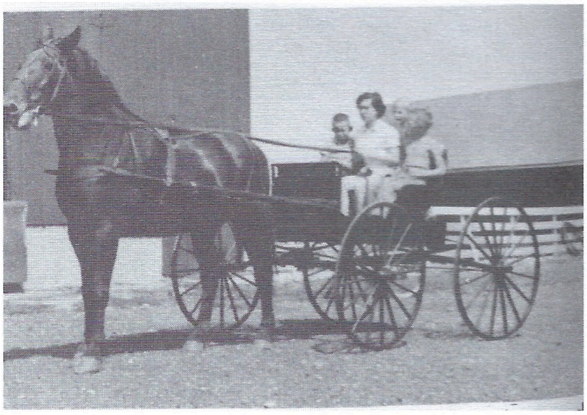


Illinois Central passenger train depot. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.


MAP of MAROA 1854 to 1954
MONROE ST.
MADISON ST.
JACKSON ST.
WASHINGTON ST.
MAIN ST.
LINCOLN
CEDAR ST.
ELM
MAPLE
WOOD
WALNUT
CHESTNUT
OAK
PINE
OLIVE
GARFIELD
McKINLEY
JEFFERSON ST.
Shaded Portion Indicates Original Maroa Town Site As Platted In 1854

Plat courtesy The Maroa Post Thursday Sept 23, 1954. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.

The little girl in the pony cart is a great granddaughter of John Crocker - who is believed to be the first permanent resident of Maroa. She still resides in Maroa.

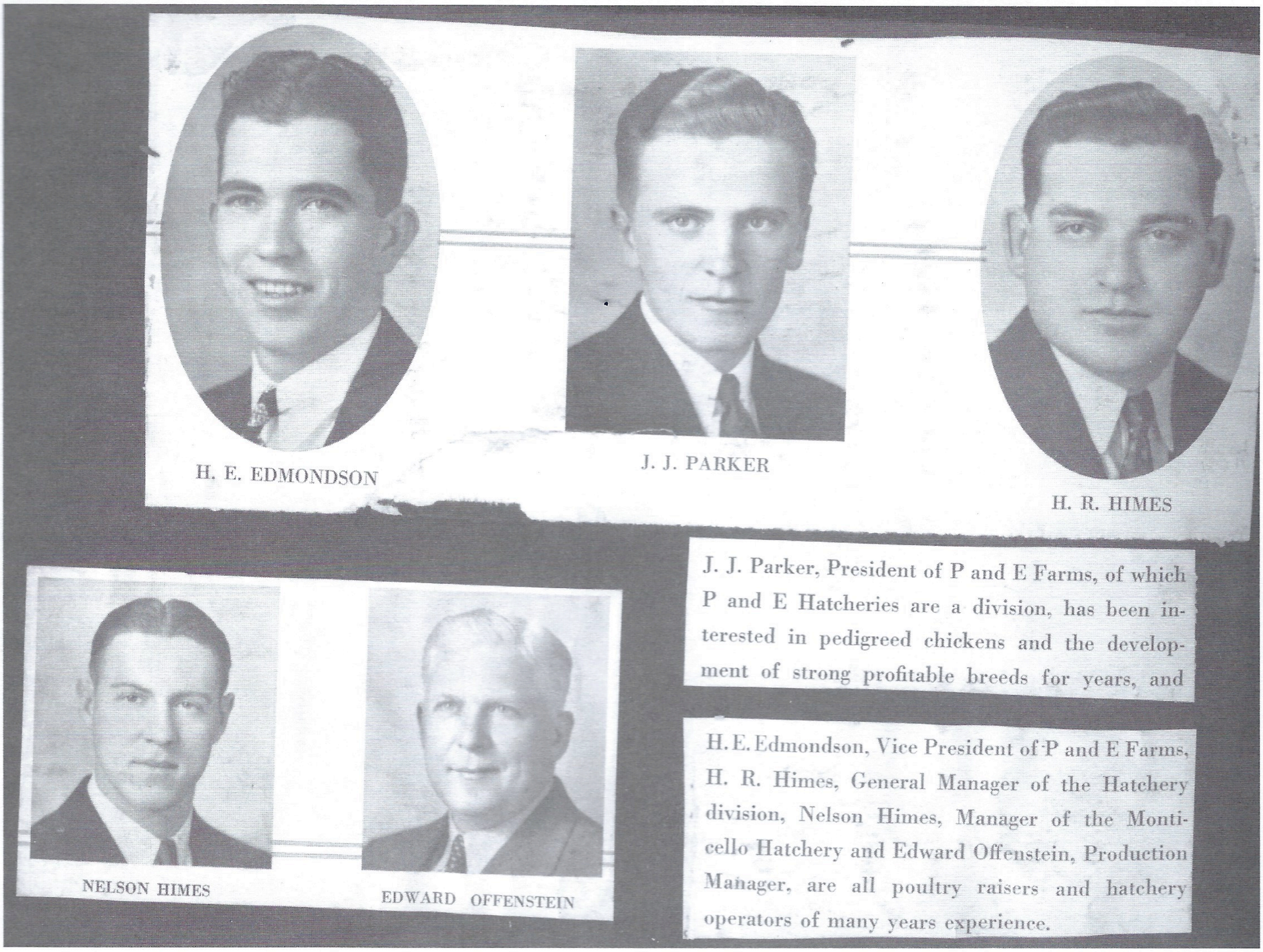


Scenes from the Centennial, Nancy Parker taking John Berry, Johnny Parker and Janet Parker for a ride.

MAROA, ILL.
MAROA, ILL.
MAROA, ILL.

This is a photo of a cloth that was sewn onto blankets that were made for the soldiers of World War I.

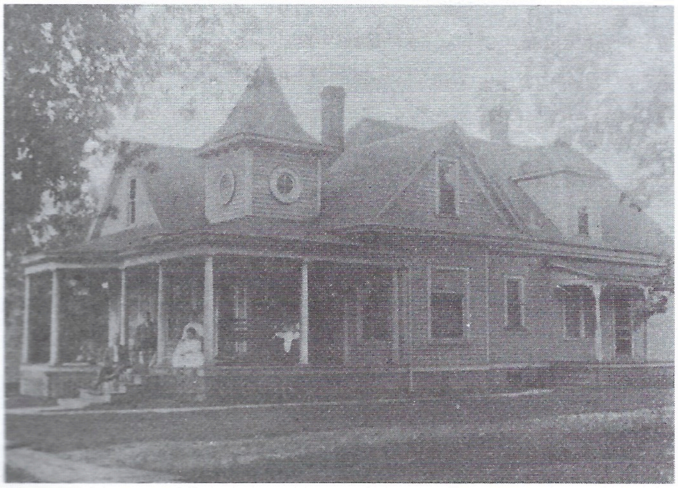
Postcard picture in Maroa. Fannie C, Bess G, Friend of Bess, Erma C, Ettie C, Myrtle B, Maud C, Bess G, Neira D, Kate M.



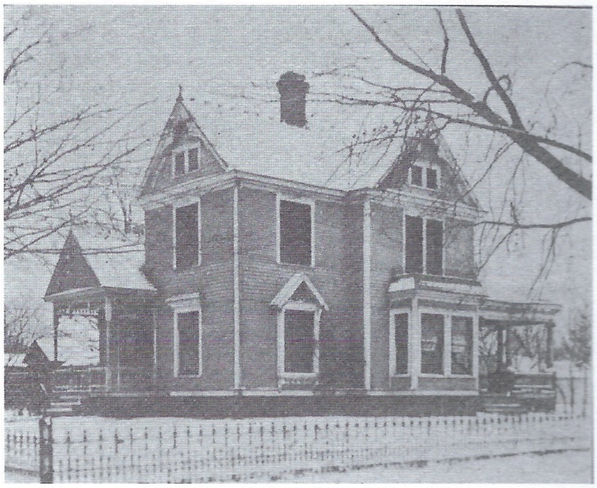
J. J. Parker, President of P and E Farms, of which P and E Hatcheries are a division, has been interested in pedigreed chickens and the development of strong profitable breeds for years, and

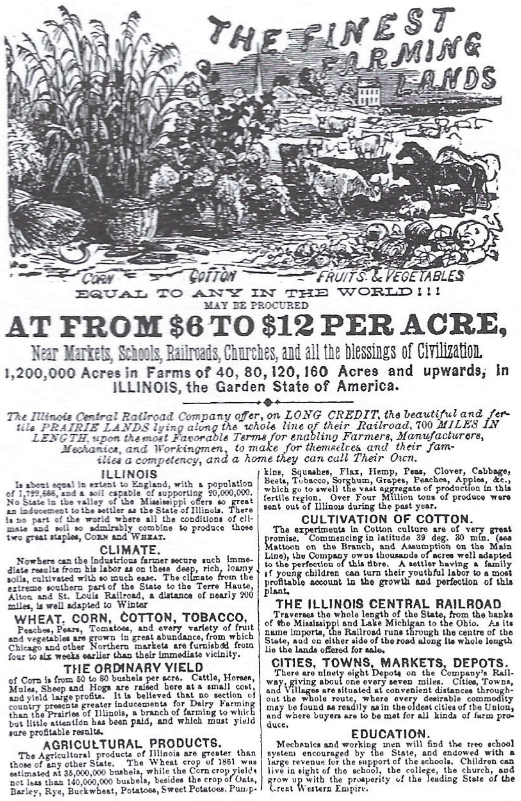
H. E. Edmondson, Vice President of P and E Farms, H. R. Himes, General Manager of the Hatchery division, Nelson Himes, Manager of the Monticello Hatchery and Edward Offenstein, Production Manager, are all poultry raisers and hatchery operators of many years experience.

The owners of P & E Hatchery. JJ Parker, president of P & E farms, of which P & E Hatcheries were a division, had been interested in pedigreed chickens and the development of strong profitable breeds for years, and H. E Edmondson, Vice President of P and E farms. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.



Residence of J. H. Parker's Residence, corner East Washington and Pine Streets. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.




THE FINEST FARMING LANDS
CORN
COTTON
FRUITS & VEGETABLES

EQUAL TO ANY IN THE WORLD!!!

MAY BE PROCURED

AT FROM $6 TO $12 PER ACRE,

Near Markets, Schools, Railroads, Churches, and all the blessings of Civilization.

1,200,000 Acres in Farms of 40, 80, 120, 160 Acres and upwards; in ILLINOIS, the Garden State of America.

◆

The Illinois Central Railroad Company offer, on LONG CREDIT, the beautiful and fertile PRAIRIE LANDS lying along the whole line of their Railroad, 700 MILES IN LENGTH, upon the most Favorable Terms for enabling Farmers, Manufacturers, Mechanics, and Workingmen, to make for themselves and their families a competency, and a home they can call Their Own.

ILLINOIS

Is about equal in extent to England, with a population of 1,722,666, and a soil capable of supporting 20,000,000. No State in the valley of the Mississippi offers so great an inducement to the settler as the State of Illinois. There is no part of the world where all the conditions of climate and soil so admirably combine to produce those two great staples, CORN and WHEAT.

CLIMATE.

Nowhere can the industrious farmer secure such immediate results from his labor as on these deep, rich, loamy soils, cultivated with so much ease. The climate from the extreme southern part of the State to the Terre Haute, Alton and St. Louis Railroad, a distance of nearly 200 miles, is well adapted to Winter

WHEAT, CORN, COTTON, TOBACCO,

Peaches, Pears, Tomatoes, and every variety of fruit and vegetables are grown in great abundance, from which Chicago and other Northern markets are furnished from four to six weeks earlier than their immediate vicinity.

THE ORDINARY YIELD

of Corn is from 50 to 80 bushels per acre. Cattle, Horses, Mules, Sheep and Hogs are raised here at a small cost, and yield large profits. It is believed that no section of country presents greater inducements for Dairy Farming than the Prairies of Illinois, a branch of farming to which but little attention has been paid, and which must yield sure profitable results.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

The Agricultural products of Illinois are greater than those of any other State. The Wheat crop of 1861 was estimated at 35,000,000 bushels, while the Corn crop yields not less than 140,000,000 bushels, besides the crop of Oats, Barley, Rye, Buckwheat, Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes, Pumpkins, Squashes, Flax, Hemp, Peas, Clover, Cabbage, Beets, Tobacco, Sorghum, Grapes, Peaches, Apples, &c., which go to swell the vast aggregate of production in this fertile region. Over Four Million tons of produce were sent out of Illinois during the past year.

CULTIVATION OF COTTON.

The experiments in Cotton culture are of very great promise. Commencing in latitude 39 deg. 30 min. (see Mattoon on the Branch, and Assumption on the Main Line), the Company owns thousands of acres well adapted to the perfection of this fibre. A settler having a family of young children can turn their youthful labor to a most profitable account in the growth and perfection of this plant.

THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD

Traverses the whole length of the State, from the banks of the Mississippi and Lake Michigan to the Ohio. As its name imports, the Railroad runs through the centre of the State, and on either side of the road along its whole length lie the lands offered for sale.

CITIES, TOWNS, MARKETS, DEPOTS.

There are ninety eight Depots on the Company's Railway, giving about one every seven miles. Cities, Towns, and Villages are situated at convenient distances throughout the whole route, where every desirable commodity may be found as readily as in the oldest cities of the Union, and where buyers are to be met for all kinds of farm produce.

EDUCATION.

Mechanics and working men will find the free school system encouraged by the State, and endowed with a large revenue for the support of the schools. Children can live in sight of the school, the college, the church, and grow up with the prosperity of the leading State of the Great Western Empire.

An 1867 land advertisement. The railroad promised extraordinary yields as well as "all the blessings of civilization" to any and all land buyers. *(Illinois Central Railroad)*

Amusing Incidents

Work of building the railroad started in August 1852. Track was laid in segments at the same time up and down the length of its course. As many as 10,000 persons labored at one time and a total of 100,000 workers were employed before it was completely finished, some five years later.

Wages were $1.25 a day and $2 to $3 for men with teams. Workers came from the East, Ireland, Germany, Denmark and Poland. Many of these people stayed on to buy land, or to set up in business.

Several amusing stories are told of these early Illinois Central days. Perhaps the most important to Maroans, from a standpoint of general interest, was an attempt to have the railroad follow a line about 12 miles east of Clinton.

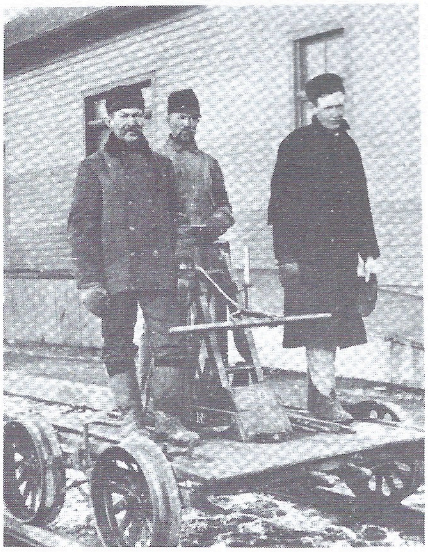
A group of railroad officials, so the story goes, started out with team one day to canvass the proposed alternate route. As the men progressed eastward from Clinton, it seemed they were either pulling laboriously up a steep hill or wallowing in the depth of a ravine.

At length, the overworked nags apparently decided they had had "enough." They suddenly burst into the freedom of a runaway. The distinguished body of officials was left afoot, to trudge wearily back to Clinton. This incident is said to have settled the issue; the road would run through Clinton, Maroa and Decatur as planned.

Fight with Blizzards

Not long after the road was operating, in 1857, there came a depression. Hundreds of settlers, panicked, insisted that the government and the railroad buy back the land because "we can never get it paid for." Much of the land owned by the government was sold for as little as $2.50 an acre.

There was argument, it is said, about width of the right-of-way. Eventually, 200 feet was the distance set. The reason: so trees would not fall across the track.



This picture taken of 3 men in front of the Maroa RR terminal.

The first four engines of the Illinois Central were second-hand. They weighed scarcely more than a farm pick-up truck. And in their travel, speed was not what it is today, obviously. A "trip" from Wapella to Bloomington in 1855 took 55 minutes, according to an early timetable.

Cold weather, with its accompanying snows disrupted traffic, laying open passengers to the miseries of the elements. In the Illinois Central files is the following graphic story concerning a fight against a blizzard in 1856:

"December 1st Clarke is at Polo, snowbound. Engines, 23, 26, and 36 are dead and road is badly blocked as ever. Captain Wells left (Amboy) yesterday morning for Dixon; got into a snowdrift seven miles north of there. When we got two-thirds shoveled out we found we would be out of wood and water in a short time. I returned to Amboy to get the second engine when the men ceased operations and came home. Engine 20 and four cars ran off track in deep cut this side of Mendota, broke through ice, one side settled down to the axles. Other engine, attempting to come back last night, got snowbound and laid down."

Lincoln In Maroa

In this land of Lincoln, of which Maroa is certainly a part, it is natural for each community to connect itself with this great president. By reason of Lincoln's long and varied work for the Illinois

Central, there is every reason to believe that Lincoln once walked down the streets of Maroa. It is a certainty that he rode the line through here many times.

Lincoln was one of the principal lawyers for the road, settling right-of-way matters, trespass, livestock accidents, etc. That he had legal business involving property in this general vicinity is evident from the record that he appeared in seven cases for the Illinois Central in Clinton on May 16,1854.

Mr. Lincoln, incidentally, collected the largest fee from the Illinois Central that any lawyer had been known to receive for services in one case (McLean County Tax Case). The amount was $5,000. This was at a time when the governor of Illinois received only $1,500 a year. The huge fee is said to have financed Lincoln's debates with Douglas and to have given him funds for other political activity leading to the presidency.

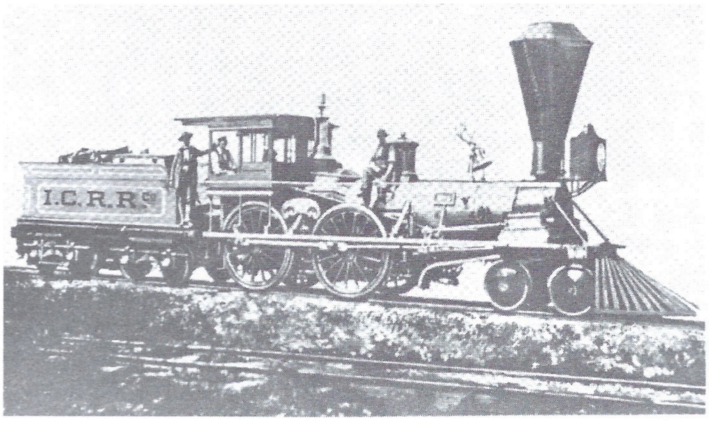
Another prominent figure of the century known to have visited Maroa was George B. McClellan, who was to become the famous Civil War general. From 1857 to 1860, McClellan was vice president and chief engineer of the Illinois Central.

Maroa Helps Chicago

Ulysses S. Grant is known to have traveled through Maroa on the I. C. in the early days of the Civil War when he was but just another soldier in a troop movement. Troops and prisoners strung through Maroa all during this period, as the Illinois Central became a main thoroughfare in the transport of War's men and materials.

Still another historic episode in Maroa's association with the Illinois Central was its relief contribution to victims of the Great Chicago Fire, in 1871. Maroans joined with other friendly folk up and down the line to send "mercy" packages into the fire ravished city. Food and clothing was taken to the freight house, from where it was loaded onto I. C. trains and delivered free to needy Chicagoans.

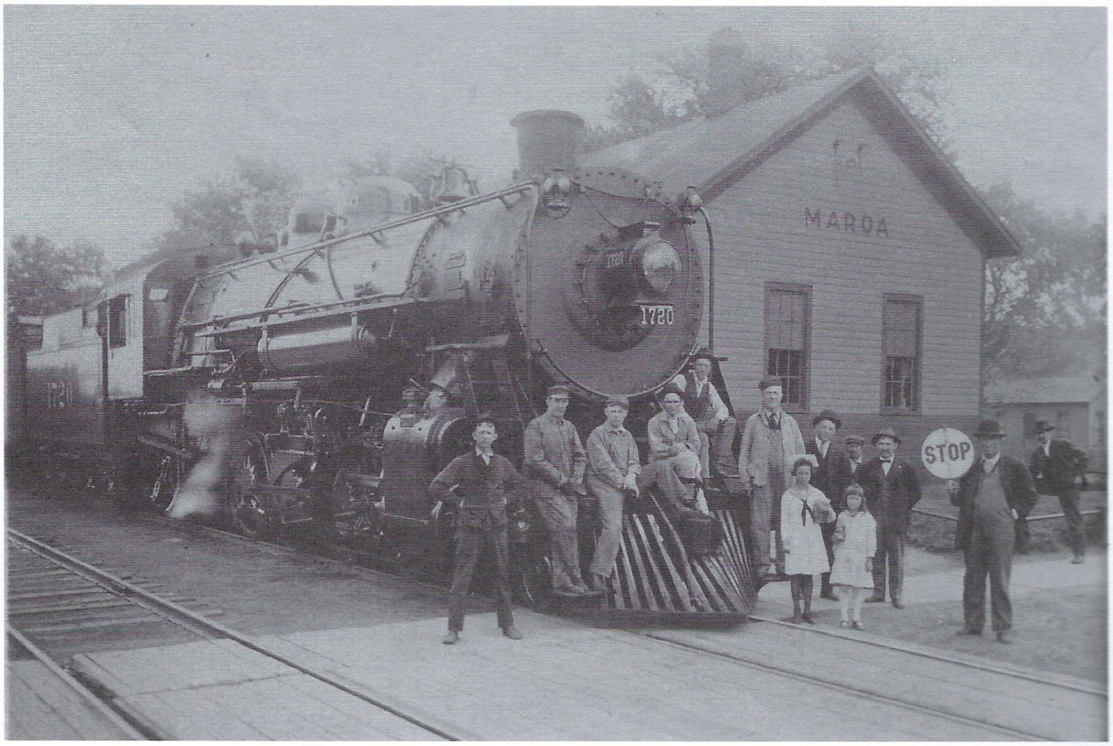
The "Main Line of Mid-America," as the vast Illinois Central has become known, not only founded Maroa but to the gratitude of its people has helped it to live unforgettable chapters in America's history. Each of its citizens can hope that the Illinois Central will accomplish as much for the nation and this proud City of Maroa, in the next one hundred years.



Steam engine on the ICRR (Illinois Central Rail Road)

BUSINESS IN MAROA MORE THAN 30 YEARS. (in 1954)
R. 0. Crouch, DDS., 1902.
Lee Kempshall, 1903, Schenck Cigar Factory.
Charles F. Hippard, 1914, Dry Goods.
David Dewhirst, 1917, Lumber.
S. E. Burke, 1922, Chevrolet Dealer.

The Illinois Central Rail Road had a change in focus as the trains decreased in importance in local shipping. The railroad decided to remove certain lines of track, and on July 23, 1982, Engine #8090 made the last run through Maroa.



In 1919 this group of railroad engineers stop to take a picture of a family arriving in Maroa. Photo courtesy of M&M Café

INTERURBAN

There is perhaps no greater nostalgia linked to a former institution for many Maroans than to the "old Traction." For the interurbans of the Illinois Traction Railroad gave the community a direct passage to nearby larger cities and opened the way to a more complete pattern of living.

Of course, the steam railroad -the Illinois Central-had been an asset to Maroa since the founding of the community. Yet it remained for the Traction to bring the well stocked stores, the drama of the theatre and the pleasant parks, to be found in Decatur and Bloomington, within the everyday scope of the Maroan.

Indeed, it was a day long to be cherished when the first Traction waddled up to the Maroa depot from Decatur in 1905. Buntings were unrolled, the band played and men cheered as the first car, looking much like an overgrown street car, rumbled to a stop.

The interurban provided frequent service, a convenient depot and a cheap fare. The cost for a ride on the Traction of 1907 was a mere two cents a mile or one and one-half cents for a round trip ticket.

Maroa felt quite like it had made a conquest with the advent of the interurban. This feeling of pride was especially strong after civic leaders persuaded Terminal officials to curve its track down through the main north-south street, the Bloomington Road. Oldtimers recall that the line was originally planned to parallel the Illinois Central tracks. But Maroa was boastful of its interurban line and wanted all who passed through the city to see and to be impressed by it.

This civic pride of the city's "fathers" of that period is understandable when one considers the historic significance of the electric interurban. Enthusiasm for this type of travel swept the midwest, particularly Illinois, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan, in the horse and buggy days at the turn of the century. Lines sprouted in almost every part of these states. It was the belief of local officials everywhere that a town simply had to have electric service if it were to continue to progress. Each town was determined to have interurban facilities, and it made every effort to win a line away from its neighbor.

By 1906, the line had pushed up to Bloomington and on to Mackinaw Junction. Now Maroa had a direct connection with Peoria. With construction of McKinley bridge across the Mississippi, St. Louis was also brought within easy reach. Prior to the bridge, there was uncertainty at this southern terminal because the car had to be ferried across the river.

The beginning of the Illinois Terminal was made in 1903 with a line between Danville and Champaign. William B. McKinley was the organizer of the road. His inspiration for the service stemmed from a humble little electric line he operated to connect Champaign and Urbana.

As the years rolled on, farmers of the Maroa community learned to use the frequent Traction whistles as their time piece.

And for the city resident, each passing car meant "mail call" and a trip to the post office.

The interurban served Maroa as a priceless institution until the day of modern automobiles and highways. Once the family car became really practical, however, the electric car lost its magic. Students of business point out that there has never been anything on the American scene to compare with the sudden decline of the electric interurban.

In the years just prior to World War II, for instance, the interurban jolted through Maroa many times with the motorman and conductor its only passengers. The coming of war, though, brought an abrupt change in Traction traffic. People who had not ridden a car for years found it a comfort to their travel desires when gasoline allotments ran low. With hostilities continuing, the Traction almost became crowded. For the younger generations, it demonstrated the worth the line had once held for the community.

Lighter memories of the Traction embrace many mischievous acts.

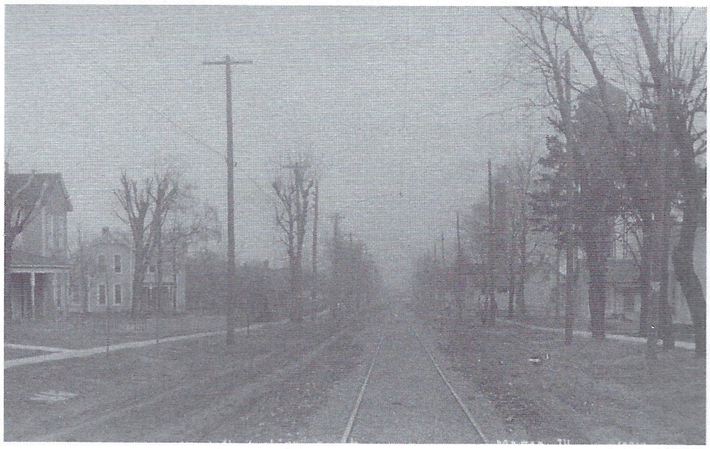
The Interurban (also called 'The Traction') was an exciting day when it came into Maroa. It made travel all the way to Decatur or Peoria or St. Louis much easier than traveling via horseback or buggy ride.

There are those, once young who will always recall hitchhiking a ride to Clinton and back via ITS freight on a dull summer evening. Or frustrating the interur-ban (and conductor) when halfway through town by grabbing a pole brace and bouncing the the power line off the trolley. Or "stealing" milk cans away from the depot just before tram time, to the irritation of a usually good natured station agent.

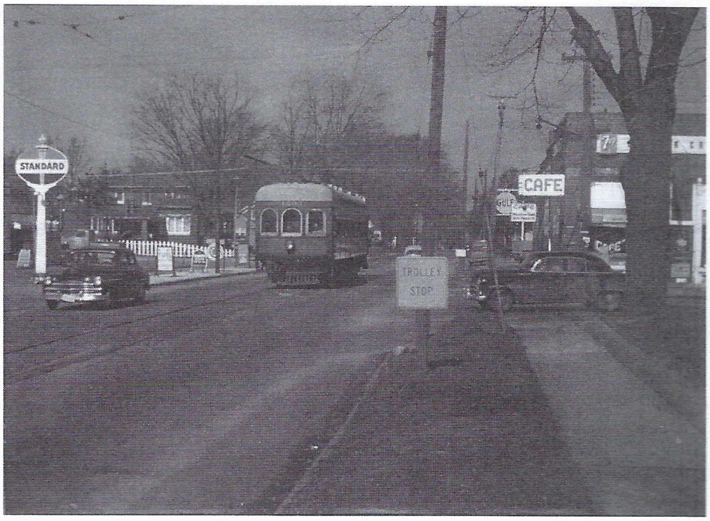
Then there are recollections of important athletic events, for which the "whole town" chartered a Traction "double-header" for the occasion, even taking along the band. Or of the exciting "excursions" to St. Louis, when usually some one drank too much "home-brew."

And what Maroan can forget that it was the Traction that put the community into Ripley's nationally circulated "Believe It or Not" newspaper feature. Mr. Ripley contended that only in Maroa, out of the entire world, did a motorist drive across three tracks traveling north but none going south.

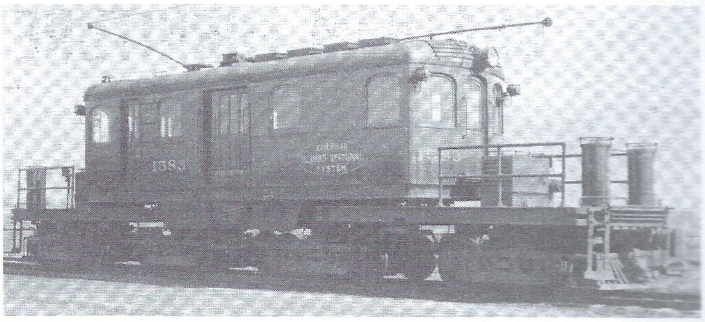
On a wintry Saturday, February 21, 1953, the Traction made its last run through Maroa, with closing of the Decatur-Mackinaw branch. Two local men, Lee Kempshall and Dick Adams, had the distinction of riding the last car to the end-of-the-trail, just as they had been among the passengers who celebrated the inaugural run. Ironically, several children who had been reared next to the noise of the line took their first Traction ride on that memorable last day.



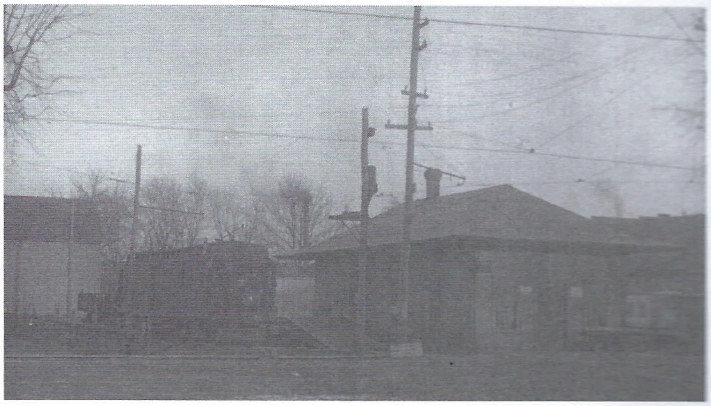
Interurban tracks looking north, 1930. Courtesy of Larry Nix



Interurban 1950 trolley.



The interurban viaduct, as the rains flooded the section. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.



Maroa's Interurban Depot. The interurban started running in 1904 and ran until 1953. Photo courtesy of M&M Café

THE FAMED ELECTRIC RAILROAD OF ILLINOIS' PAST
THE ILLINOIS TRACTION SYSTEM

Railroads certainly made it easier for people to travel long distances in the 1850's, but it was the application of a newer technology-electricity-that ushered in the commuter age. Electricity, generated locally to serve cities and towns, was quickly adapted for use on city streetcar and trolley systems, and by 1892 nearly every mid sized Illinois town used some sort of electric streetcar system. It was not much of a stretch to continue running those electrical wires out of the city and on to the next, allowing travelers to leave horse and buggy behind for a much quicker trip on the electric "interurban," a train system that specialized in local short-run destinations.

No one was more important to the development of the Interurban in central Illinois than Champaign entrepreneur William B. .McKinley. He purchased the power plant and streetcar system in Champaign-Urbana in 1890, and after the great economic depression of the 1890's ended, McKinley bought the trolley lines and power plant in nearby Danville.

McKinley's electric-powered Illinois Traction System grew to become the longest Interurban line in the Midwest. McKinley tapped in to the unserved rural population- the many small communities that did not have local access to steam rail service. Coal miners who lived in the small towns south of Danville, for example, benefited from the reliable interurban system to get to and from work. Steam engines, costly to operate, often bypasses small towns in favor of bigger city passenger traffic. In contrast, electric -powered cars moved faster than local steam trains, they ran cleanly, the operated at much lower costs, and they also offered more frequent service.

McKinley's venture was lucrative. Between 1900 and 1902 he constructed an interurban line that wound south from Danville through Westville, Catlin, and Georgetown. By 1905 it reached Ridge Farm, totaling a distance of seventeen miles. The electric passenger cars ran back and forth every hour, and the volume of riders on the new interurban electric railroad soon spelled sizable profits. One of the many side benefits of interurban travel was not having to deal with soot and ashes, a common problem on steam trains, particularly when windows were open for ventilation during warmer months.

McKinley in 1902 began construction of an electric line between Danville and Champaign to supplement the infrequent service of the steam powered Peoria & Eastern Railroad. The Danville, Urbana & Champaign Railway (DU&C), completed in less than a year, was quickly profitable. The first cars ran on May 10, 1903, amid great celebration. Now, one-could commute between the two cities for 45 cents, or go to and from any of the nine small towns in between on cars operating every two hours from 6a.m. To 10 p.m. In Danville and Champaign-Urbana the interurban cars ran on the existing streetcar lines, further enhancing local passenger service. McKinley built a branch line south from Ogden to Homer, where he developed a large amusement park along the Salt Fork River. Families who enjoyed picnics and parties at Homer Park hopped on the interurban, adding ever more income to company coffers.

McKinley, whose first idea rewarded him with great wealth, decided to try out another. He pushed the development of freight service as well as an express shipping service along the line, a concept most other interurban lines did not pursue, choosing instead to concentrate solely on passenger service.

Bolstered by his two successes, McKinley embarked on his grand plan-the construction of an interurban system that would serve St. Louis and Chicago, linking with Springfield and Peoria on the west and Danville on the east. In the next eight years the system was built, using differently named companies to build each major segment, but all under the control of his Illinois Traction System (ITS). The system never reached Chicago but ultimately stretched 664 miles with a network of lines throughout central Illinois. Lines connected Peoria, Bloomington, Decatur, Springfield, and St. Louis, as well as Champaign and Danville, plus dozens of small towns. By 1911 the ITS operated 165 scheduled trains each day, and the air horns on the trains became familiar sounds across the rural landscape.

The frequent, highly reliable, and fast passenger service produced large profits, as did the freight service, which also grew rapidly. The freight traffic growth was greatly aided by the construction of belt lines around Springfield (1910), Decatur (1911), Edwardsville (1910), and Champaign-Urbana (1927) that got the slower freight trains off the streets and to increase access to businesses on the city outskirts.

Hundreds of small towns along the ITS lines for the first rime were provided with frequent and fast passenger services. The ITS wanted to keep its customers and ran vigorous advertising campaigns, using sign boards and newspaper ads. The interurban staff was trained to be friendly and cooperative with passengers and shippers. The ITS, which adopted the slogan, "The Road of Good Service," also operated special trains and excursions for hire to groups, including chartered trains to Champaign for Illinois football games.

McKinley's grand scheme ran into some bumps along the way. The behemoth railroad companies, threatened by their new competitor, fought hard to thwart the upstart ITS. Railroad companies slowed ITS progress in the courts and on the tracks. During construction, workers frequently encountered resistance at locations where they had to cross existing steam-based railroad lines. In Virden, for example, the railroad company ordered engineers to park a steam engine on the site of a proposed ITS crossing, bur when the engine was moved for refueling, ITS workers built a blockade in front of the engine and proceeded to install the crossing rails.

At other locations, McKinley took dramatic and expensive steps to overcome the big railroad companies' resistance. In rail-congested East St. Louis, interurban passengers had to exit the train at a station in Granite City and then take a slow ferry across the Mississippi River. McKinley, frustrated over the poor service, decided to build his own bridge across the Mississippi. He and Canadian investors financed the $4.5 million bridge, making it the only privately owned major bridge across the great river. Upon its completion in 1910, McKinley hosted a celebration, attended by the governors of Illinois and Missouri. McKinley also built a major station in downtown St. Louis, attracting a large pool of new passengers and additional freight business.

McKinley found other ways for his interurban to compete with the big railroad companies. Passengers soon enjoyed the use of sleeping cars and fine parlor cars, introduced first on the Springfield to St. Louis line in 1907. Other lines quickly added these luxuries. For $2.25, a passenger could board an evening train in Danville or Champaign, proceed to a berth or compartment, sleep, and arise refreshed as the train entered St. Louis the following morning. Sleeper service also operated between St. Louis and Peoria.

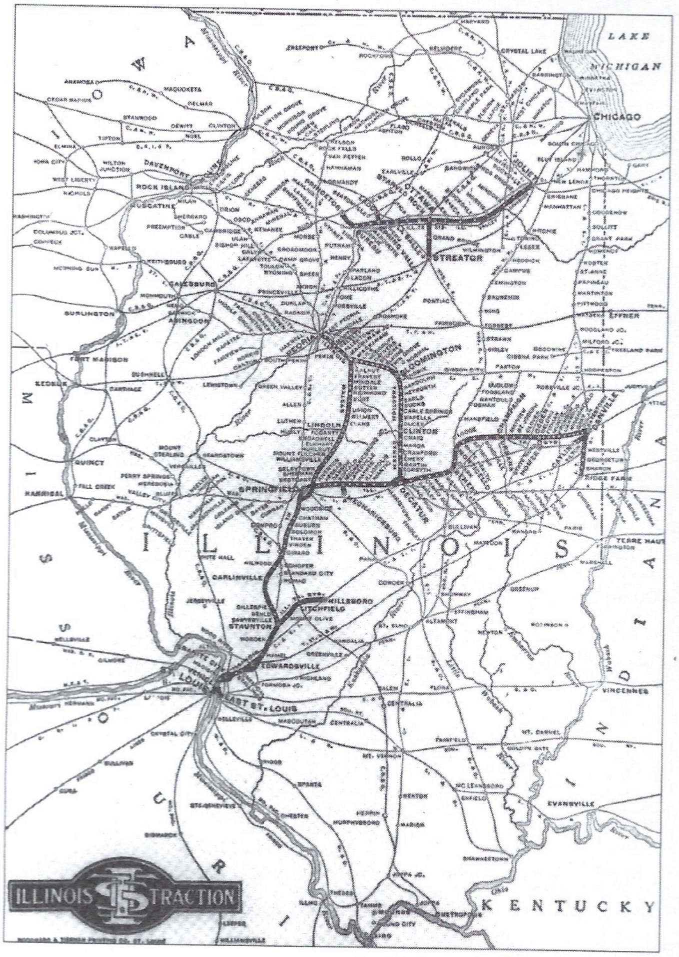
McKinley assured a pleasant trip no matter how long the ride. Passengers traveling longer-distance lines rode in cars that were richly appointed with mahogany wood interiors and plush, upholstered green seats. They enjoyed the scenery from the open-ended parlor-observation cars, famous for their three beautiful arched windows on the car fronts.

Although McKinley had fulfilled most of his dream, he was still looking for a way to connect to Chicago. In 1908 he acquired the Illinois Valley Railway, a faltering interurban line in northern Illinois. The line ran from Princeton, east through La Salle, Ottawa, and on to Marseilles. The ITS extended the line east to Joliet, providing one link to Chicago. McKinley then built a line south from Ottawa to Streator, but he never completed the final connection to the existing central Illinois system. The valley line, which never enjoyed the success of the central Illinois line, was abandoned in 1934.

McKinley instead focused his attention on his lucrative ITS. With an eye to customer service, he built many fine looking depots along its lines. Since some older depots also housed the power substations that generated electricity between major city power plants, fire was a threat. The new depots were built of brick to prevent just such a catastrophe. Many of the old depots still stand, some in use as local museums and some adapted for other uses.

Although building the ITS was a full-time proposition, McKinley found time for other interests. He became engrossed in the national political scene (perhaps inspired by his cousin, President William McKinley), was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives three times, and was elected U.S. senator in 1920. His strong political ties benefited the ITS. In 1907, when Vice President Sherman came to Illinois, he rode McKinley's trains to deliver a major speech at Clinton. Then in 1911, President Taft visited Illinois and rode a special ITS train, stopping to speak in Champaign, Decatur, and Springfield.

The dark black lines on this Illinois Traction map illustrate the extent of its reach in central Illinois. Also visible is the shorter Illinois Valley Line to the north. (Photo courtesy Illinois State Historical Library)



The dark black lines on this Illinois Traction map Illustrate the extent of its reach in central Illinois. Also visible is the shorter Illinois Valley line to the north. (Photo courtesy Illinois State Historical Library)

In 1923 the busy and aging McKinley sought to free himself from management of the many utilities and ITS. He hired Clement Studebaker, later of auto fame, as manager of the ITS. Studebaker artfully guided the ITS into a new era. He reorganized the ITS and established the Illinois Power and Light Corporation (IP&L), a subsidiary that consolidated all of the ITS electric, gas, and steam-heat-generating facilities.

Studebaker made several other major changes. The trains operating out of St. Louis were given names, with the "Owl" and "Capi-

STANDARD
TROLLEY
STOP

tol Limited" to Peoria, and the "Illini" to Champaign. The green electric cars were repainted in tangerine orange in 1923, identifying the post-1923 period as the "orange car era." By 1926 the ITS was operating 130 scheduled trains each day, and larger electric freight engines were built to handle increasing traffic. Seven short rail lines in the East St. Louis area were purchased between 1925 and 1932, greatly enhancing ITS suburban services. More importantly, this network of lines in the St. Louis metropolitan area provided a wealth of freight traffic that helped sustain the ITS through the Great Depression and beyond, making the ITS one of the nation's longest-lasting interurban lines.

Although the freight business remained healthy, passenger service did not. The Depression delivered a blow, but the fatal strike came from a new technological replacement-the automobile. Several branch lines built earlier to Homer, Georgetown, and to Litchfield ceased operations between 1928 and 1939. Remaining passenger trains were re-routed to the belt lines because ever-increasing city vehicular traffic had become a problem for both. This move forced costly new construction of stations at Decatur, Springfield, Peoria, and St. Louis. In addition, some of the ITS lines in St. Louis were elevated, and some were buried in runnels constructed beneath city streets, at an additional cost of $15 million. Despite its struggles, the ITS maintained its good-service motto and air conditioned all its cars in the 1930s.

Still, nothing could stop the slow erosion of passenger rail traffic. In 1937 the ITS was reorganized and renamed the "Illinois Terminal Railroad" (ITR), but the dwindling passenger traffic led to cancellation of all sleeper-car service in 1940. Most of the twelve city trolley lines owned and operated by the ITR were closed during the 1930s, and only the one in Peoria lasted into the 1940s.

A massive munitions plant developed near Illiopolis during World War II breathed temporary life into the ITR, providing a steady flow of employees who commuted between the ordnance plant and Springfield. But the ITR's track and equipment suffered from neglect and a shortage of building materials.

After the war, the ITR launched an ambitious program to enhance service and lure travelers out of their cars and back to the rails. The ITR purchased three costly streamlined trains, and all the existing passenger cars were painted blue, launching in 1948 the "blue car era." The streamlined trains arrived amidst great fanfare in all ITR cities, but unfortunately, they could not negotiate the tight curves in Peoria. Thus, the trains operated only in and out of the East Peoria station, greatly diminishing convenience for Peorians.

The 1950s were a time of great change. Automobile sales soared, and passenger rail traffic began to decline rapidly. In 1950 the ITR reduced the number of passenger trains in half, and by 1952 no trains operated to Danville. A year later the ITR abandoned the track from Decatur to Bloomington and on to Mackinaw. By 1955 all passenger trains north and east of Springfield had been terminated, and, finally, in 1956 all interurban passenger operations ceased, bringing the fifty-year period of great passenger service to an end.

The still-functioning freight service kept the ITR solvent, although between 1954 and 1955 the ITR bought twelve diesel engines to replace the electric engines. In 1956 eleven railroads that connected with the ITR bought the rail line for $20 million, and created the "Illinois Terminal Railroad Company." By then, the old ITR tracks were worn thin, and many were abandoned. The ITR trains were operated on the new owner railroads, many of which had lines closely parallel to the old ITR lines. By 1960 all the overhead electrical lines on the ITR were removed. The railroad had been converted to a dieselized all-freight line, and its trains largely operated on the myriad lines possessed by its eleven owners. By 1972 only 184 miles of ITR track remained. Then in 1982 the Norfolk & Western bought the ITR from the other railroads, ending the Illinois Terminal Railroad.

The Illinois Traction System was wildly successful, and there are several good reasons why it lasted for eighty years. Its service was spectacular-frequent trains, every hour or two, that operated at speeds ranging from forty to sixty miles per hour. Citizens in many towns, big and small, had never before experienced such convenient transportation service, where people could move fast and inexpensively. The entry of the ITS into downtown St. Louis, coupled with acquisition of a network of suburban lines in Illinois, brought major business. The ITS freight industry, a rarity in the interurban business, became a big business and carried the ITS through the Depression.

The ITS, though far from being a rarity, still stands out for some of its unique features. The bridge at St. Louis was the only privately owned bridge built across the Mississippi River. The use of luxurious sleeping cars and parlor cars was unique among interurbans and a reflection of the ITS's dedication to high quality service. Finally, its size, with more than six hundred miles of track, made it the Midwest's largest interurban railroad, and its eighty years of operation made it one of the nation's longest-lasting interurban systems.

Stanley A. Changnon
Stanley Changnon, a semi-retired professor of geography at the University of Illinois at Urbana, has been a climatologist for fifty years, specializing in the climate of Illinois. He is chief emeritus of the Illinois State Water Survey in Champaign. His lifelong avocation is the study of railroads in Illinois, and he has authored numerous books and articles on the subject.

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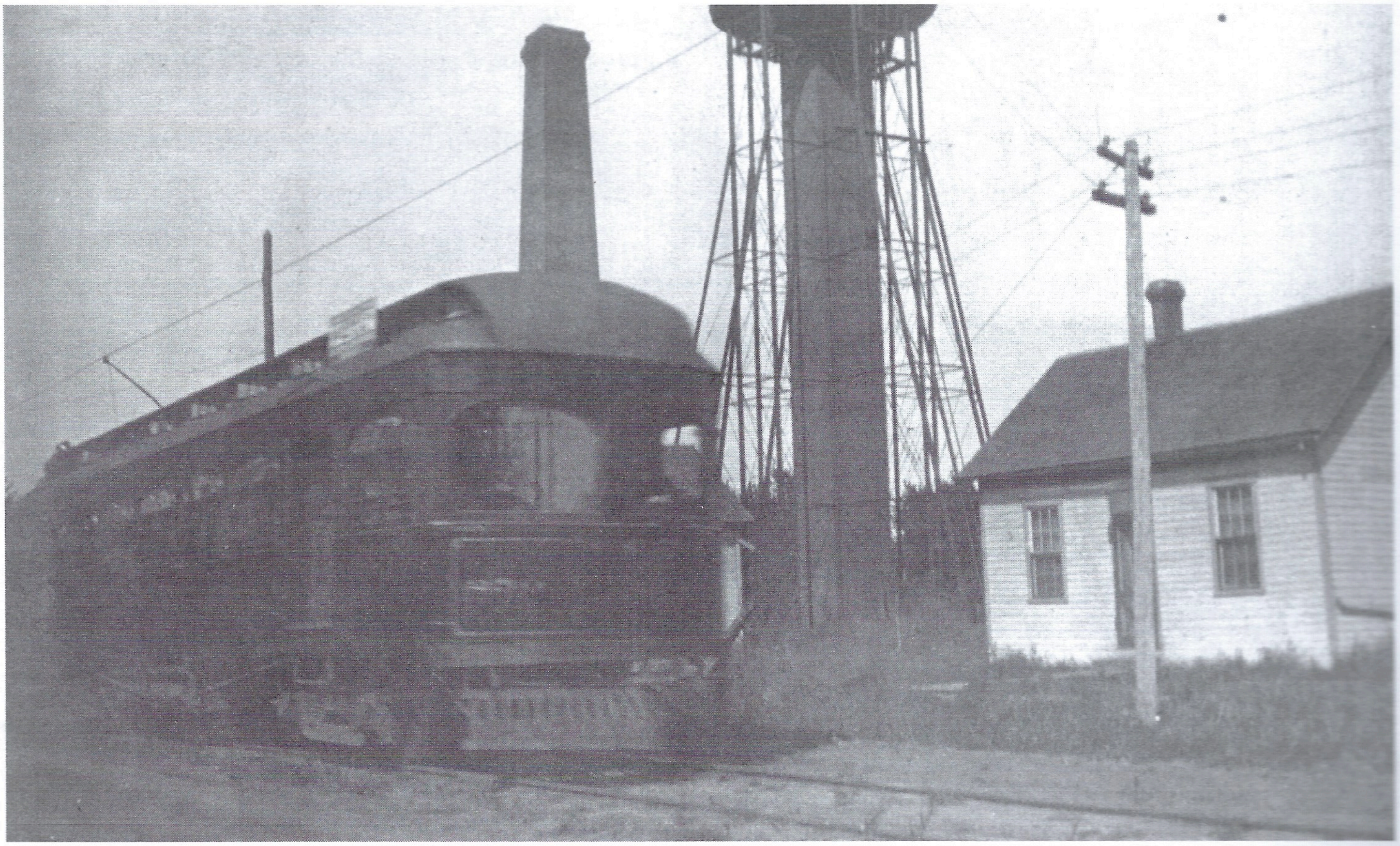
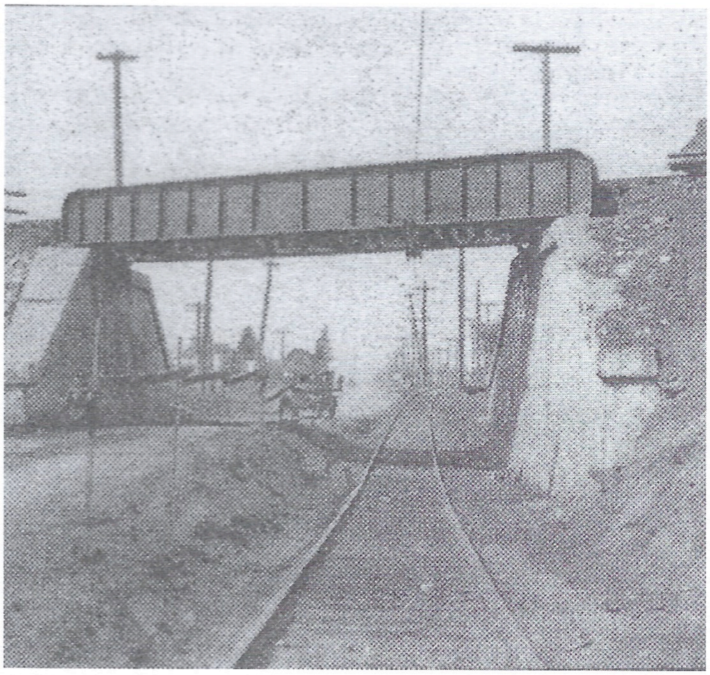


The Interurban train going past the old Water works station in Maroa. Note the water tower is the second tower built in Maroa. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.



A 1927 picture of the Maroa Subway from Wood street looking south

THUMBNAIL TIDBIT

Why did you volunteer to help with the sesquicentennial?

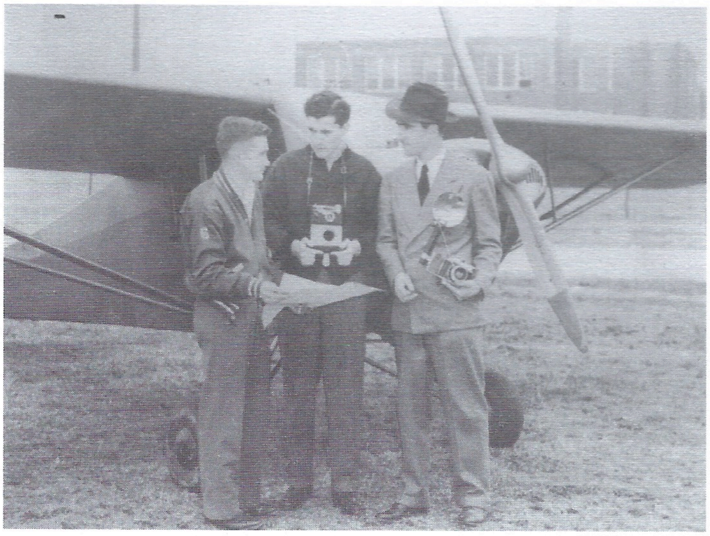
What a wonderful opportunity to work together in the community on a "once in a lifetime" celebration. I was happy to be asked to help and have enjoyed every minute working with some great people! We have gotten to know each other so well and have formed some lasting friendships. Volunteering is a great way to give back to the community and Maroa has some outstanding volunteers! Planning for the Sesquicentennial has been a lot of work but so rewarding in so many ways!

Marilyn Gentle Maroa Sesquicentennial committee Age 65

What are you most looking forward to with the upcoming celebration on September 17 - 19?

I'm looking forward to seeing a lot of people "coming back" for the Sesquicentennial. We are looking forward to four of our children being here. I'm also looking forward to the Community Church Service on Sunday morning and anticipating a large crowd from Maroa and the surrounding area coming together to worship. The Stage Shows on Saturday and Sunday are going to be a lot of fun. And the ballgame with The Rock Springs Ground Squirrels is going to be a special treat!

Marilyn Gentle Maroa Sesquicentennial committee Age 65



This picture of Jim Reed, Maurice Gordy and Mr. W. D. Keyes (left to right) share some plans in front of the Dayton Keyes Taylor craft plane that is on the airport in Maroa. This was located north of Washington street across from the old High School/Middle School on Cedar Street. Photo courtesy of M&M Café

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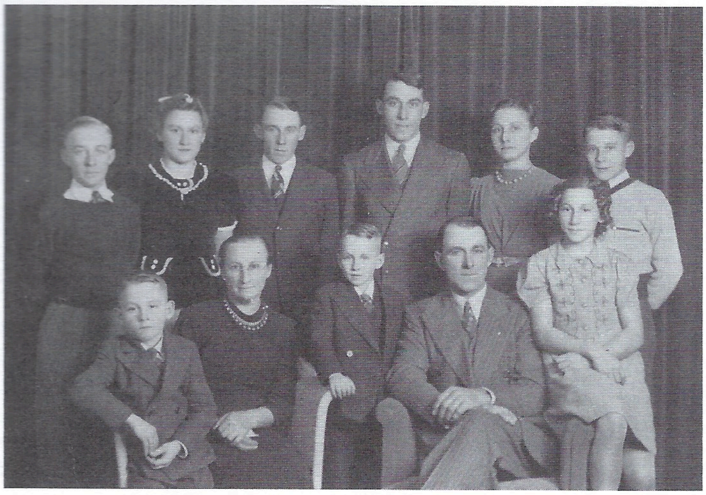
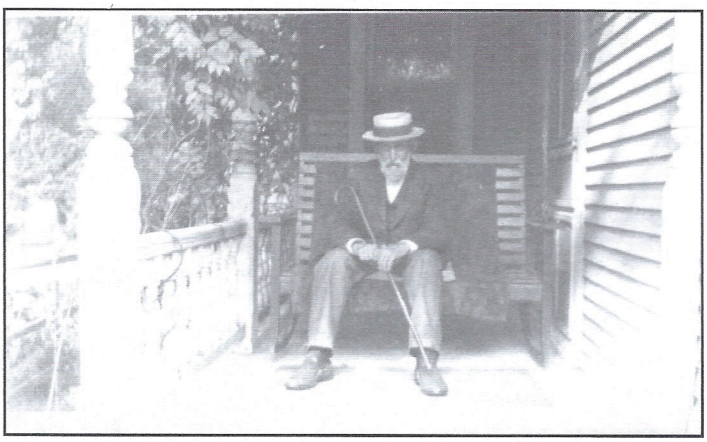


Coy and Arnetta Agee family in 1940. Left to right front row: Jim, Arnetta, John, Coy and Mary. Back row : Lyle, Frances, Coy Jr., Woodrow, Carrie, Dale

JAMES B. AUSTIN



James Austin after retiring from farming and moving to town.

James B Austin was born in Greene County, Ohio on April 29, 1829. He came to Macon County in 1856. Jonathan Austin, the father of James B. Austin, purchased land in Illinois with James, but he did not come to Illinois.

James lived with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age assisting his father in the operation of the old home farm. He was married and lived for about six years after his marriage in Bellbrook, Ohio where he was a teacher.

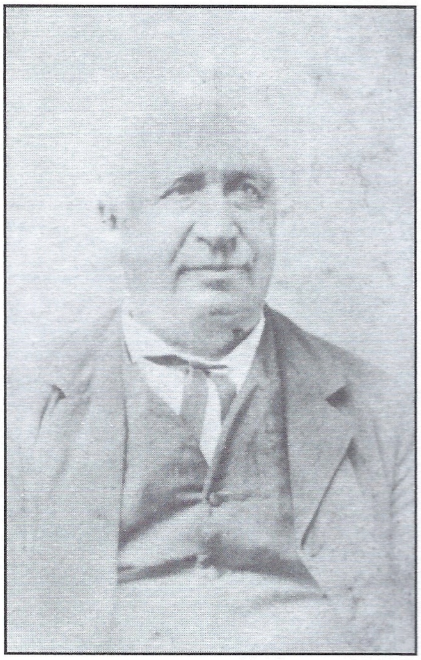
In 1856 he came to Macon County, locating on a farm of 320 acres which he had purchased with his father. He immediately started making improvements on 160 acres which was his share. In 1892 he stopped farming and purchased a lot in Maroa and erected ahome at 317 N. Wood Street.

Mr Austin was a staunch Republican. He served as Justice of the Peace, an assessor, and a school trustee. He was a member of the Masons belonging to Maroa Lodge, No. 454.

James B. Austin, had a son, who married Pearl Gidel. They had daughters Mabel, who married Harold McKinney, Leota, who married Paul Malone and they had a son Laverne, Gladys, who married James Vantries, and Elva, who married J. W. Holman. Lavern and his wife Sharon live southwest of Maroa and have a daughter, Michelle, who is married with children of her own.

Mabel and Harold had two daughters. Joan married Russell Dobbs and have a son Rick. Janice married Gene Payne and later Tom Mercer. Janice has a daughter, Kim, who is married to Curt Young and they have a son, Chad.

DAVID BARCLAY SR.



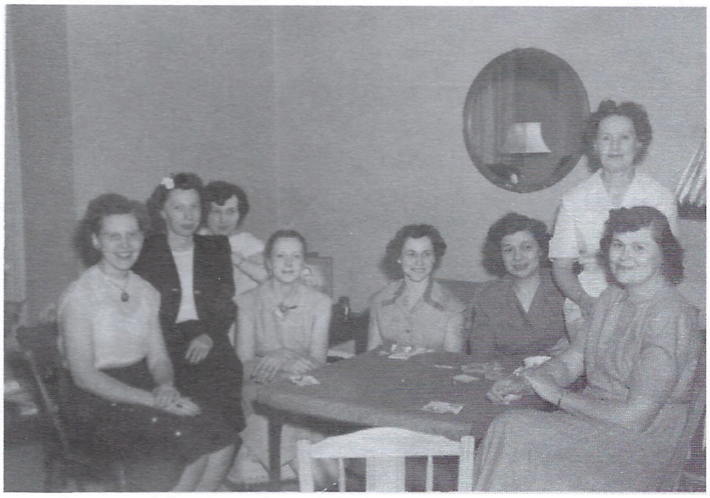
David Barclay

David Barclay was born in Scotland, May 13, 1820. He married Helen Lowe, also a native of Scotland. To this union one child, David, was born in Ireland. After the death of his first wife, he married Mary Grogan, also from Scotland, and a daughter, Margaret, was born to them. She later became the wife of Travis Redmon.

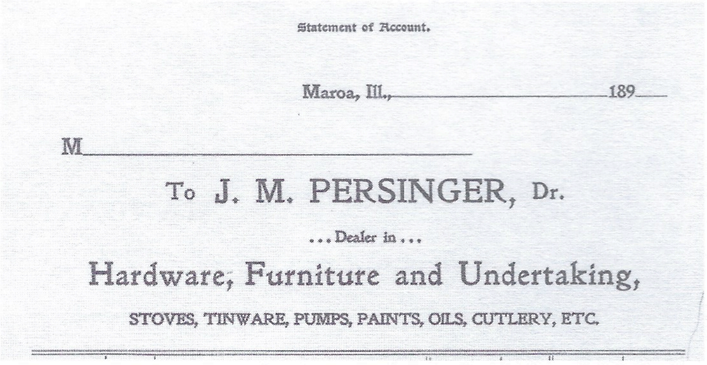
Mr. Barclay was a Land Steward of Lord Clermont, and was interested in farming. About 1860 a friend made a trip to the United States and on his return to Scotland wrote a book in the interest of the Illinois Central Railroad Co., with the title “Prairie Farmers,” setting forth the great inducements for young men in this country. Mr. Barclay read this book and came to the United States in 1861, stopping first in Springfield, Illinois, and thence to Decatur, Illinois, looking over this territory. He finally bought 80 acres in Texas Township, DeWitt County. His love and care of the land led him to accumulate quite a few acres before his death.

While still in Scotland, Mr. Barclay joined the Masonic Lodge and was Master of his Lodge. He did not move his membership to this country but at his death, the Masonic Order attended in a body. He was buried in the Texas Cemetery.

Mr. Barclay united with the Episcopal Church in Scotland, several of his ancestors being ministers of his faith.



Bridge Club in 1950.



Statement of Account.

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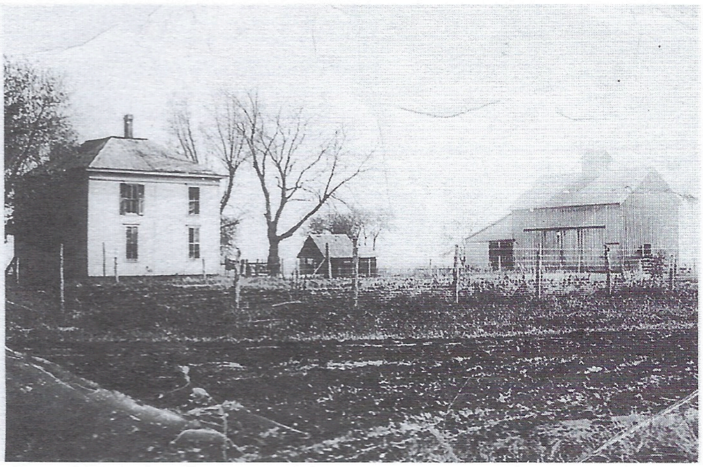
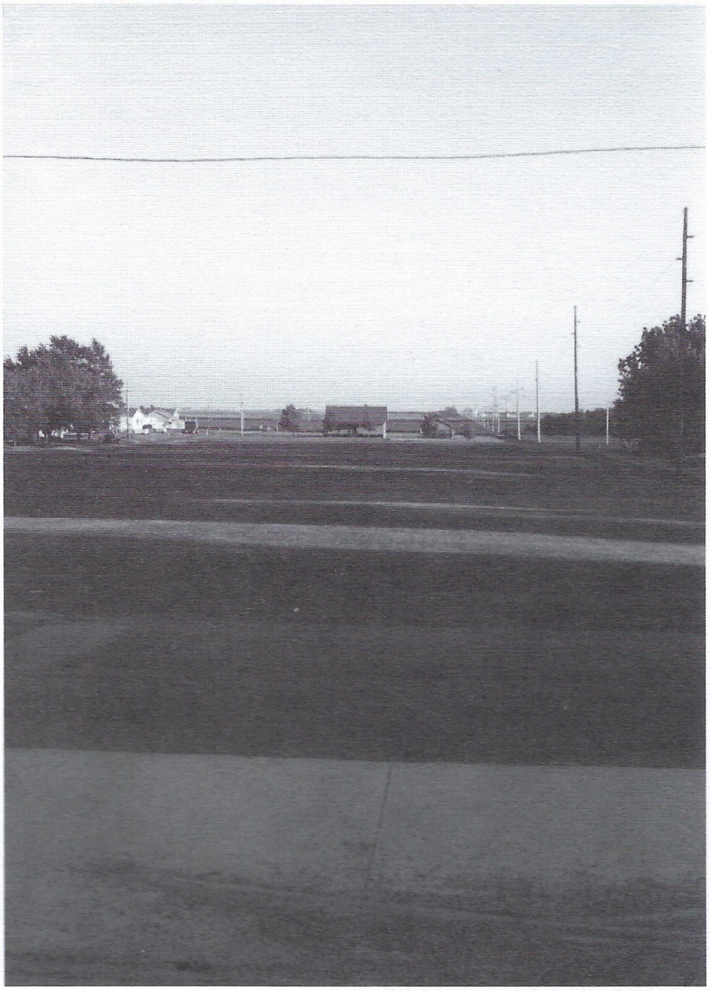
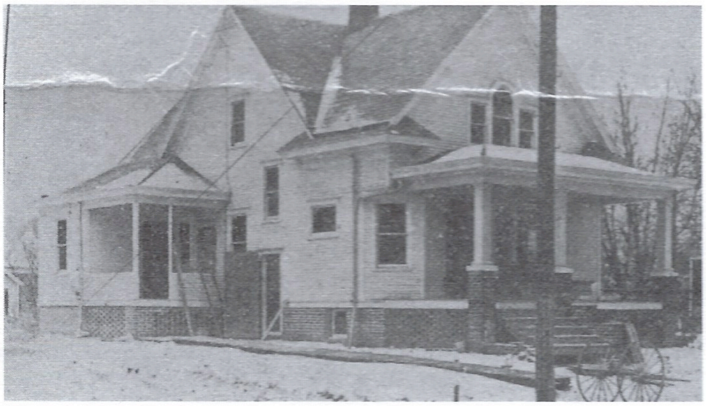


Cramer Family Farm about 1910. Located at southeast corner of Washington and Pine. (withbrockamfam)



The Railroad that help establish Maroa eventually was not used. After the tracks were removed, the Library built on the north side of Garfield Street in the old Railroad right of way. This picture is taken looking south from the Library front door.



Hon. T. N. Leavitt Cottage, 116 East Main street. Just completed (in 1910). Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.

David Barclay, Jr., the first child, married Mary Miller in 1889. To these union two daughters, Martha and Helen were born. Mr. Barclay died in 1891.

Martha married Arthur C. Ammann. Two children were born to them: John Barclay and Mary Katherine. John married Rachael Bowden in 1935 and they have two children: Sandra Kay and Arthur David. Mary Katherine married Robert Linn in 1938. They have three children: David Barclay, Robert Bruce and Martha Amelia.

Helen was married to George H. Waller in 1913 and to this union two boys were born: James Bruce and George H. Jr. James married Esther Behnke in 1939. They have three daughters: Helen Kathleen, Patricia Ann, and Cynthia Leigh. James was a Medical Doctor and had a practice in Decatur, Illinois. George H. Jr., was married in 1944 to Mary McKey and their children are Susan McKey and David Barclay. George Jr. also was a Medical Doctor and had a practice in Decatur, Illinois.

Margaret, the second child of David Barclay, Sr., was married to Travis Redman and to this union five children, David, Philip, Mary, Travis, Jr., and Margaret, were born.

David married Bessie Pettyjohn and they have three children: Lucile (Miller), Dale and David, Jr. Seven grandchildren are: Wanda, Moye, Marilynn, Jiles, Carl and Lynda Miller, and Edwin Redman. There are three great-grandchildren.

Philip married Marge Storm and their daughter is Patricia (Harris). She has three children: Ronnay, Jeffrey and Kimberly.

Mary married Ronald R. Lyons. Four children were born to them: Eugene, Ruth (Maybee), Virginia (Stout), and Jane (Hedgepeth). There are nine grandchildren: Mary Martha Lyons, Elizabeth Ann (Porter), Ronald, Franklin and Kristina Stout, Thomas Earl, Donna Jane, Junior and Lynn Dee Hedgepeth. Stephen Reppe is a great-grandchild.

Travis, Jr. married Bertha Hartzell and they have five children: Travis, Mary Elizabeth (Harris), Thelma (DeVaney), Joan (Sheuy) and Dorothy (Lamun). There are nine grandchildren.

Margaret married Elwood McGuire. Their three children are Dorothy (Braden), Anna Lou (Hensley), and Charles Robert.

Seven grandchildren are: Paul Stephen and Ronald David Braden, Frederic and Cynda Hensley, Charles Thomas, Ann Lynn and Richard Lee McGuire.

LYNDEN P BOWDEN:

Born in Maroa, Ilinois July 15, 1874. His father came to Macon county from near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania when a young man, and married Miss Susan Crandall of Maroa, Illinois in 1862. Her great grandfather Crandall was a native of Scotland and was exiled for taking up arms against the English. Her father, Washton Crandall, was a United Brethren circuit rider, filling pulpits all over northern Macon and southern Dewitt counties.

Lynden P was educated in the public schools of Maroa and went to work for Crocker Elevator company of Maroa at the age of 17 years as elevator man. When 19 years of age, he entered the employ of the Illinois Central railroad as brakeman between Clinton and Centralia and was injured by falling from an engine May 22, 1894.

After his recovery, he again entered the employ of the Crocker Elevator company and worked at the various elevators operated by that company at Birkbeck, Oreana, Cisco and Lane. On July 1, 1901, he came to Forsyth as manager of the elevator for the same company, remaining till the sale of the property to the Shellabarger Elevator company of Decatur in 1905. He retained the position of manager under the new owners. The increased business enjoyed by that flourishing concern was larely due to his courtesy and energy.

He was married ito Miss Effie L. Gaddy of Olney, Illinois on December 8, 1897. They had two children, Ingred Louise, born December 14, 1899, and Harriet D. born July 5, 1904.

Mr Bowden was a member of the Odd Fellows, Kinghts of Pythias, the Maccabees and the Encampment. He was alderman from the thrid ward in Maroa for two years. He served as chairman of the Republican committee of Hickory Point Township and was an able and efficient school director for a number of years.

He lived in the Charles Tuehle property, which Mr. Bowden purchased in 1909.

BRADEN FAMILY

Samuel G. Braden was born January 27, 1846. When he was nine years old he came to Illinois from ten miles east of Mansfield, Ohio. There were fifteen covered wagons in the party. Their first stop was four miles west and one mile north of Maroa, where they stayed with some friends a few days and rested. The family then moved one and one-half miles west of Lane, where they lived for two years. Then they moved to a farm four miles west of Maroa, where Sam G. Braden

Jenkins Studio

Wedding photo of Samuel G and Anna Braden taken January 29, 1874

Samuel G. Braden Family taken in front of 424 W. Main
Back row left to right: Cornie, Frank, Myrtle, Walter, Derrick
Seated: Samuel G. and Anna Braden

The Braden Boys Left to right: Samuel G(on horse), Walter, Cornie, Derrick. The picture was taken at the homestead: 3 miles west, 4 miles south, 1/4 mile east of Maroa

lived until grown.

In 1865 he was married to Emma V. Rouse. She died in 1873. To this union two sons were born: Frank and Derrick (Derry). After the marriage the family lived on a farm northeast of Maroa for one year. Then they moved to the Peter Ford farm, where they lived for one year and then moved 3 miles west and one mile south of Maroa where they lived for two years. Then he bought the farm three miles west and three and one-fourth miles south of Maroa, where Mr. Braden lived until he moved to Maroa in 1900. On January 29, 1874, Mr. Braden married Annie Armstrong and to this union three children were born: Walter, Cornie and Myrtle. Samuel G. Braden passed away July 9, 1935 at the age of 89 years. Mrs. Braden passed away August 21, 1942 at the age of 88 years. The family has always lived in the Maroa vicinity.

The Braden Family taken in front of 424 West Main street.
Back row left to right: George Braden, Derrick Braden, Fred Danner, Cornie Braden, Walter Braden, Frank Braden, Art Braden, Newell Braden, Sam Braden
Middle row: Myrtle Braden, Bertha (Ferree) Braden holding Russell, Eve (Braden) Danner, Samuel G Braden, Anna (Armstrong) Braden, Mary (Fort)(Frank's wife), Lida Delaney Braden (Cornie's wife)
Children: are Raymond Braden, Edwin Braden and Babe Braden (Frank's daughter)
Front row: Ernest Braden, Carl Braden, Harold Braden, Mae Braden & Dolly Braden (Frank's daughter)
Note that everyone (except Raymond & Edwin) is laughing. How many older pictures do you see where everyone is laughing?

Frank Braden was born March 28, 1867 and now lives in Decatur, Illinois. He married Mary Fort and they had six children: Sam G. lives in Clinton, Illinois, and he has one daughter, Montizelle, who is married to Warren Karr; George has one daughter, Berna Batchelder and she has two children, David and Michael; Arthur has four children, Leonard, who has one daughter, Doreeta; William, who has a daughter, Suzie; Norma (Hockaday), who has a son, Richard and a daughter, Nancy Ann; and Mary Lou; Newell, who has no children; Dollie, who is married to Otis Reed and lives in Maroa, has one son, Robert, who lives in California, and Carl, who has no children. Unless otherwise stated the families live in Decatur, Illinois.

Derry was first married to Dora Garriott and to this union one son, Ernest was born. He married Martha McCleary. Later Derry married Bertha Ferree and they had six children: Mae, married to Caroll Schroeder and they live in Franklin Park, Illinois. They had four children: Richard, who has four children: Dixie, Kathy, Janet and Charles; William; Jane (Blanchard) who has a son Michell and a daughter, Jean; Mary. Edwin married Pearl Meador and they have two children, daughter, Ruth Ann, and son, Robert. Russell, who is married to Grace Cooper. They have one daughter, Charlotte, who is married to James Parker. Paul, who is married to Dorothy McGuire, and they have two sons, Stephen and Ronald. Pauline married to Russell Hawks and they live in Peoria, Illinois and have two children, Margaret and Russell. Dorothy is married to Lyle Cisco and lives in Wapella.

Derrick and Bertha Braden wedding December 7, 1899

Cornie married Lida Delaney and they have two sons, Harold, who married Dorothy Eaton and lives in Decatur, Illinois, and Raymond, who married Edith Munro and has one daughter, Mary. They live in Idaho.

Walter and Myrtle have no families and reside in Maroa, Illinois.

BRADEN FAMILY FOLLOW-UP - MAY 27, 2004
The father of Samuel G. Braden - David F. Braden - was on that wagon train coming from Ohio to Macon County in 1856. David Braden was born May 17, 1820 and was a farmer and township assessor for the city of Maroa. According to an article written in a newspaper by Joseph Bennett, there were 43 people in covered wagons and it took 18 days to come from Ashland County, Ohio. Those listed were Dan Braden and family, Dave Braden and family, Sam Braden, Solly Braden, George Querry and family, John Deffenbaugh and family. Josh Hoff, Dan Wolf and the Peter Bennett family (Joseph's brother).

The children of Samuel are now all deceased. Frank, Derrick, David (who died in infancy), Cornie, Walter and Myrtle, and Nellie, who died at the age of 20.
Frank died on Feb. 18, 1958

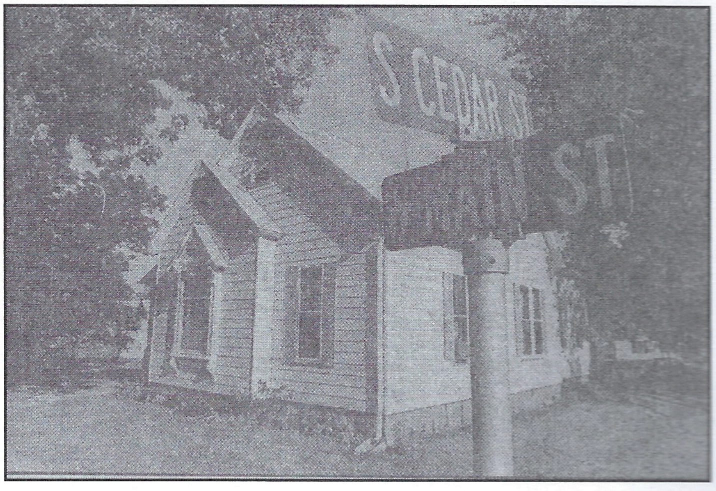
Derrick (Deny) died on Nov. 21, 1957 at the age of 87. Derrick (Dick) farmed and lived on the family farm 3 miles west and 3 1/2 miles south of Maroa. Derry's children: Ernest, Mae, Edwin, Russell, Paul, and Pauline are all deceased. The only surviving child is Dorothy Jane Cisco of Maroa. She was married to Lyle Cisco. He passed away December 8, 2003.

Family of Derrick and Bertha Braden 1949. Back row left to right: Ernest, Paul, Edwin, Russell. Front Row: Mae, Derrick and Bertha, Pauline, Dorothy

Ernest died in 1981 at the age of 83, his wife Martha (McCleary) died in 2003 at the age of 102. Ernest was a farmer and carpenter. Mae died in 1997 at the age of 96. Her husband Carrol Schroeder died in 1961. Their children are Richard, Bill, Jane and Mary. Richard died in 1999. His wife Carol resides in Florida. Richard (Dick) and Carol have five children, Dixie, Kathy, Janet, Charles and Carrie. Bill and his wife, Pat have four children, Marilyn, Karen, Barbara and Billy. Jane and her husband Ed Blanchard have five children, Michael, Jean, Susan, Elizabeth and Danny. Ed passed away in 2000. Mary and her husband Herman Gulano have four children; Tony, Jim, Joe and Lisa.

Edwin and Pearl Braden, taken about 1960.

Edwin died in 1994 at the age of 85. His wife, Pearl died in 1968 at the age of 58. He later married Florence Palmer. She resides in Lenexa, Kansas. Edwin was a farmer and owned a trucking business. He lived many years on a farm 3 1/4 miles west of Maroa. Edwin's children, Ruth Ann and Robert reside near Maroa. Ruth Ann and husband, LeRoy Wilson have two sons, Timothy and Wesley. A daughter, Lori died in 1971. Tim, his wife, Tina and son Tyler reside in Missouri. Wes,



Samuel G Braden home built in 1900 at 424 West Main

A Christmas 2003 picture of the LeRoy and Ruth Ann Wilson Family. Front Row left to right: Tina, Tim, Leroy, Tori, Ruth Ann, Wes, Paula. Back row: Matthew, Tyler.

of Clinton has a daughter, Victoria. Robert, son of Edwin, has two daughters. Daisy and Emily and a son, Chris.

Russell died in 1968 at the age of 57 and his wife. Grace resides in Decatur. He was manager of the Macon County Grain Elevator south of Maroa for many years. His daughter, Charlotte and her husband Edward Crabtree live in Decatur. She has four children, Greg, Debbie, Brent and Renea - and two stepchildren, Carrie and Jeff Crabtree. There are nine grandchildren.

Paul died in 1999 at the age of 83. Paul was a farmer and owned a trucking business. They lived many years on a farm 2 1/2 miles east of Maroa where his wife, Dorothy (McGuire) still resides. They have two children, Steve and Ron, who reside near Maroa. Steve and his wife Maria have four children, Carrie Lynn, Christy Jo, James Derrick and Jolyn Adell and two grandchildren. Ron and his wife, Terri have three children, Christy Lynn, Dusty Jean and Rhonda Kay and four grandchildren.

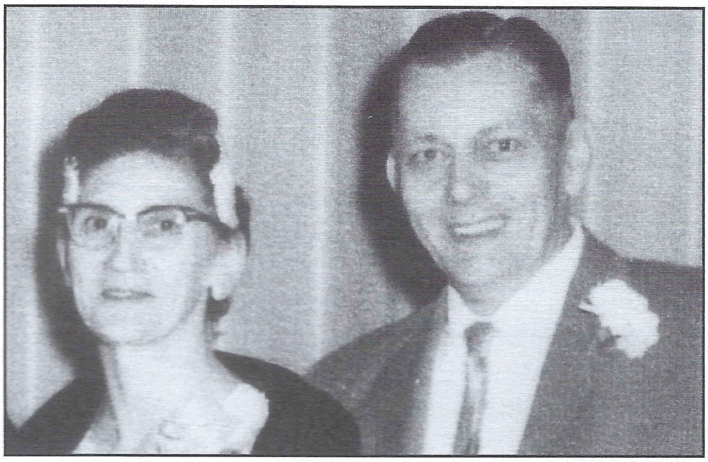
Pauline and husband, Russell Hawks, both deceased lived in the Peoria area. She died in 1983 at the age of 65. Russell died in 1991. They had two children, Margaret VonBoeckman and Russell. Margaret has two children, Jerry Wayne who has 1 son, Derrick, and Debbie Kay who has three children, Brandy Jane, Nicole and Tylor Jacob. Margaret resides in Peoria. Russell has three children; Michelle Ann who has two children, Benjamin and Tucker; Michael who has three children, Taylor, Ainsley and Conner; and Robert. Russel and his wife, Gerry reside in Metamora.

Cornie and Lida are both deceased. Both of their children, Harold and Raymond are deceased.

Walter died in 1968 at the age of 92, leaving no children. His wife, Etta, lived only six months after their marriage. His carpenter shop still stands on the west side of Maroa where he once prepared the structures for farm buildings. He hauled the lumber by wagon to the farm location and then erected the buildings.

Myrtle died in 1978 at age 92, leaving no children. She had lived in the same home at 424 W. Main since the age of 15, when she and her parents moved there in 1900. She took care of her parents and her brother, Walter, until their death. In the early 1900's she worked as a secretary for Mr. Coulter, the owner of the furniture store and the undertaker. Worked for Fred Moore in his grocery store. She also substituted at the post office.

BROCKMAN FAMILY

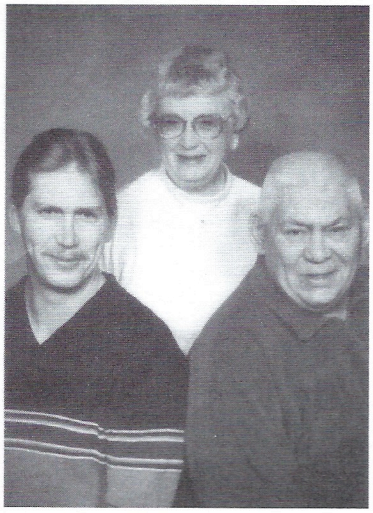


Martha Cramer Brockman and Renard Henry Brockman December 1959.

The Brockton Family moved to Maroa, Illinois, in September 1994. The family formerly lived in Decatur, Illinois, for twenty-three years. The Brockman Family members are Renard Norman Brockman, his wife, Virginia Brockman and his son, Patrick W. Brockman.

Renard Norman Brockman was born November 22,1932, in Maroa, Illinois. He is the son of Renard Henry Brockman and Martha Cramer Brockman. They lived in Maroa on the Cramer Family farm until about 1942 when they moved to Mt. Olive, Illinois. In 1946 the family moved to Clinton, Illinois, where they made their permanent residence. Renard Norman Brockman is the eldest of four children. His brothers and sister are Donald L. Brockman, Richard D. Brockman and Beverly Brockman Finfrock, all of Clinton, Illinois.

In 1951 Renard Norman Brockman enlisted in the U. S. Navy. In 1958 he met Virginia Peters of Taylorville, Illinois. They were married December 20,1959, in Taylorville, Illinois. Virginia Peters Brockman is the daughter of Lee Darrell and Helen Kaylor Peters of Taylorville, Illinois. Both of her parents are deceased and are buried at Taylorville, Illinois. Both parents of Renard Norman Brockman are also deceased and are buried in the Maroa Cemetery.



Left to right: Patrick, Virginia and Renard Norman

During the marriage of Renard Norman and Virginia Brockman, they raised two sons. Norman Lee Brockman born November 28, 1960, in Norfolk, VA, died May 12, 1994, in Houston, TX and is buried in Maroa Cemetery. Patrick W. Brockman born March 17,1965, in Las Vegas, NV and now lives with his parents in Maroa.

In 1971 Renard Norman Brockman retired from the U.S.Navy with twenty year of service. During his twenty-year term in the Navy he was in the Korean War, Vietnam War, Lebanon, Beirut Crisis and the Cuban Crisis. He was awarded several commendations, they are:
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal - Lebanon
United Nations Service Medal - Korea
Korean Service Medal with two bronze stars
China Service Medal
Korean Presidential Unit Citation
Occupation Service Medal - Korea
National Defense Service Medal with two bronze stars - Vietnam
Vietnam Service Medal
Occupation Service Medal - Vietnam
Good Conduct Medal

From 1971 until 1991 Renard Norman Brockman worked as a heavy equipment mechanic and supervisor for several companies. He retired in 1991 due to failing health. Virginia Brockman worked most of her married life as bookkeeper and accountant. She retired in October 1993. Virginia takes care of her husband and is the Worthy Matron of Rose Acacia Chapter # 266 0. E. S., Maroa, Illinois. She also is a member of the Maroa Festival Committee.

COOPER FAMILY

Captain James W. Cooper was born in New Jersey about 1751. During the battle of Novesink, he fought on the Highlands in midwinter of 1777. James W. Cooper distinguished himself by his brave and heroic deeds.

His descendants lived in the east until his grandson, Joseph Cooper and his bride, Eliza Catherine Miller came west. They settled in the community of Maroa. Here a son, George Cooper, was born in 1857 and he died in 1942. He married Mary E. Longstreet. She died in 1932. To this union six children were born: Notie (Groves), Irma (Dunbar), Kate (Reiter), Vashti (Sprecklemeyer), Laura (Walgren), and Schuyler.

Notie Cooper was born August 7, 1882. She married George B. Groves, born October 30, 1878 and died in 1916. To this union three children were born: Velma, who married Thelma Walker. They have two sons, Jack and Jerry. Jack married Jacqueline Granert and they have three children: Timmy, Genan and Robert; Helen, who married, Robert D. Bolen. They have one daughter, Nancy, who is married to Roger A. James; Maxine married Rolland Lyons and they have one son, Charles Rolland Lyons, Jr.

Peleg Kent was one of our early settlers. He was elected one of the Ruling Elders of the Presbyterian Church in April 1860. His son, Ely P. Kent, came to Maroa from New York in 1866. In 1879 the firm of E. P. Kent & Son was formed and they began the business of blacksmithing. Subsequently a wagon shop, planing mill and plow works were added. The Kents built the building where John Ward has his garage.

CORNWELL FAMILY

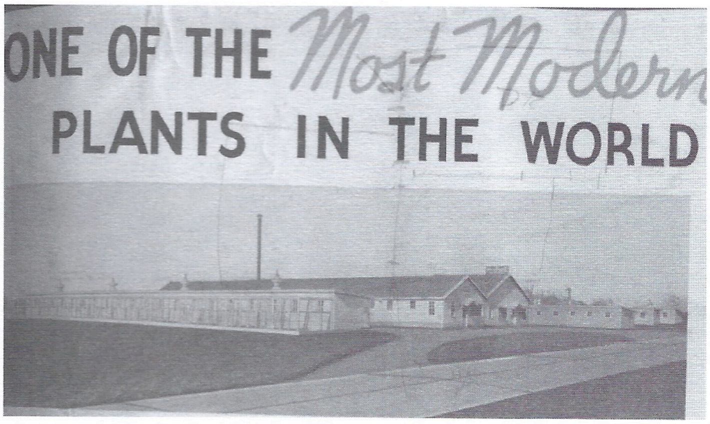
Picture of William Cornwell

William M. Cornwell was born March 24, 1834, in Linden, Warren County, Virginia, to parents of direct English descent. In his early manhood he moved to Maroa, Illinois, where he was married to Martha M. Nicols in 1870. She was born January 30, 1843, in Frederick County, Maryland. Mr. Cornwell was a carpenter and cabinet maker by trade, and helped erect some of the buildings still standing in Maroa.

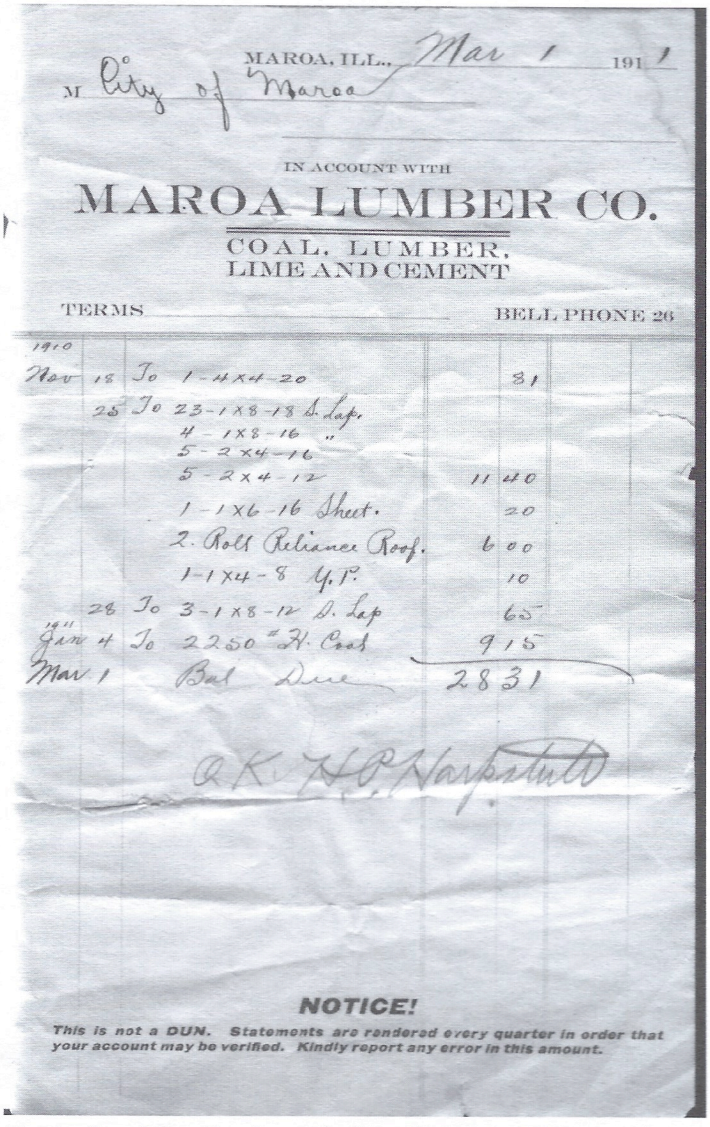
Mrs. Cornwell passed away at her father's home in Sherman City, Kansas, April 20, 1877, where she had gone for her health. Her husband died in Maroa, February 25, 1886.

They were the parents of two children: John Benjamin (Ben), born in Clinton, October 6, 1873, and Grace, born in Maroa, August 15, 1875.

On April 23, 1902, Ben married Corda Elam, daughter of Martin Van Buren and Sarah (McAdams) Elam of near Vandalia, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Ben Cornwell farmed near Maroa until his death January 12, 1930. Mrs. Cornwell is living in Maroa.



The apparent P & E Hatchery located one mile north of Maroa, IL on US Route 51 in 1936. A $100,000 plant with the finest equipment. 100,000 egg capacity and an experienced staff. Central Illinois had developed one of the most modern hatcheries in all the world. Everything that science, invention and experience dictated necessary for the successful production of vigorous chicks had been done. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.



MAROA, ILL., Mar 1 1911

M City of Maroa

IN ACCOUNT WITH

MAROA LUMBER CO.

COAL, LUMBER,
LIME AND CEMENT

TERMS

BELL PHONE 26

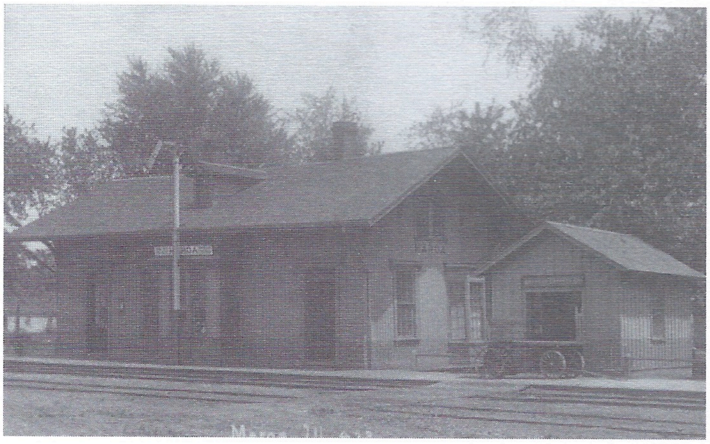
1910				
Nov	18	To 1-4x4-20		81
	25	To 23-1x8-18 S. Lap.		
		4-1x8-16 "		
		5-2x4-16		
		5-2x4-12	11	40
		1-1x6-16 Sheet.		20
		2. Roll Reliance Roof.	6	00
		1-1x4-8 Y.P.		10
	28	To 3-1x8-12 S. Lap		65
1911 Jan	4	To 2250# H. Coal	9	15
Mar	1	Bal Due	28	31

O.K. H P Harpstrite

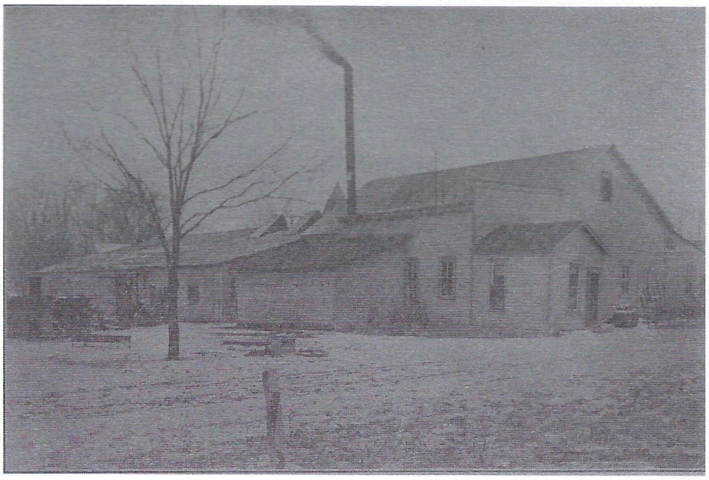
NOTICE!

This is not a DUN. Statements are rendered every quarter in order that your account may be verified. Kindly report any error in this amount.

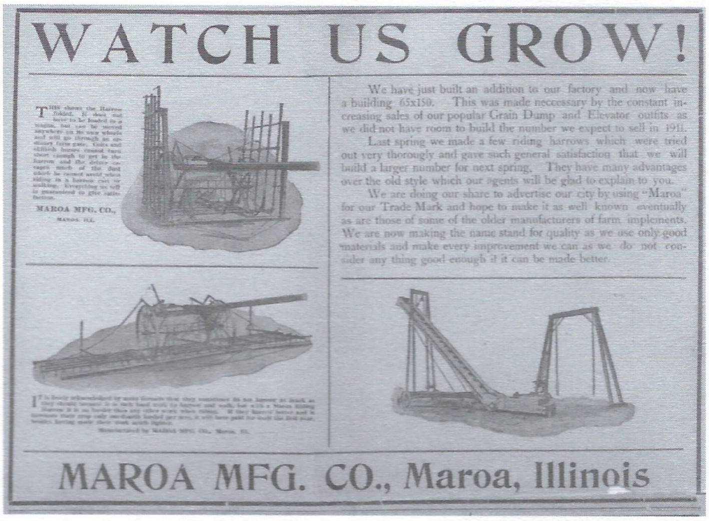
Receipt from Maroa Lumber to the City of Maroa in 1911. Note the 23 1x8 18 ft long ship lapped, the 4 1x8 16 ft long ship lapped, the 5 2x4 16 feet 5 2x4 12 feet all for $11.40! Thanks to Charlie Hamilton for the history.



Picture of the Maroa train depot taken from the south. It sits on what is now (2004) Grain Elevator Coop at 200 E Main Street.



Plant of Maroa Manufacturing Company. An Industry that promises to grow to mammoth proportions in a few years. From Maroa News Times 1910 Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.



WATCH US GROW!

We have just built an addition to our factory and now have a building 65x150. This was made neccessary by the constant increasing sales of our popular Grain Dump and Elevator outfits as we did not have room to build the number we expect to sell in 1911.

Last spring we made a few riding harrows which were tried out very thorougly and gave such general satisfaction that we will build a larger number for next spring. They have many advantages over the old style which our agents will be glad to explain to you.

We are doing our share to advertise our city by using "Maroa" for our Trade Mark and hope to make it as well known eventually as are those of some of the older manufacturers of farm implements. We are now making the name stand for quality as we use only good materials and make every improvement we can as we do not consider any thing good enough if it can be made better.

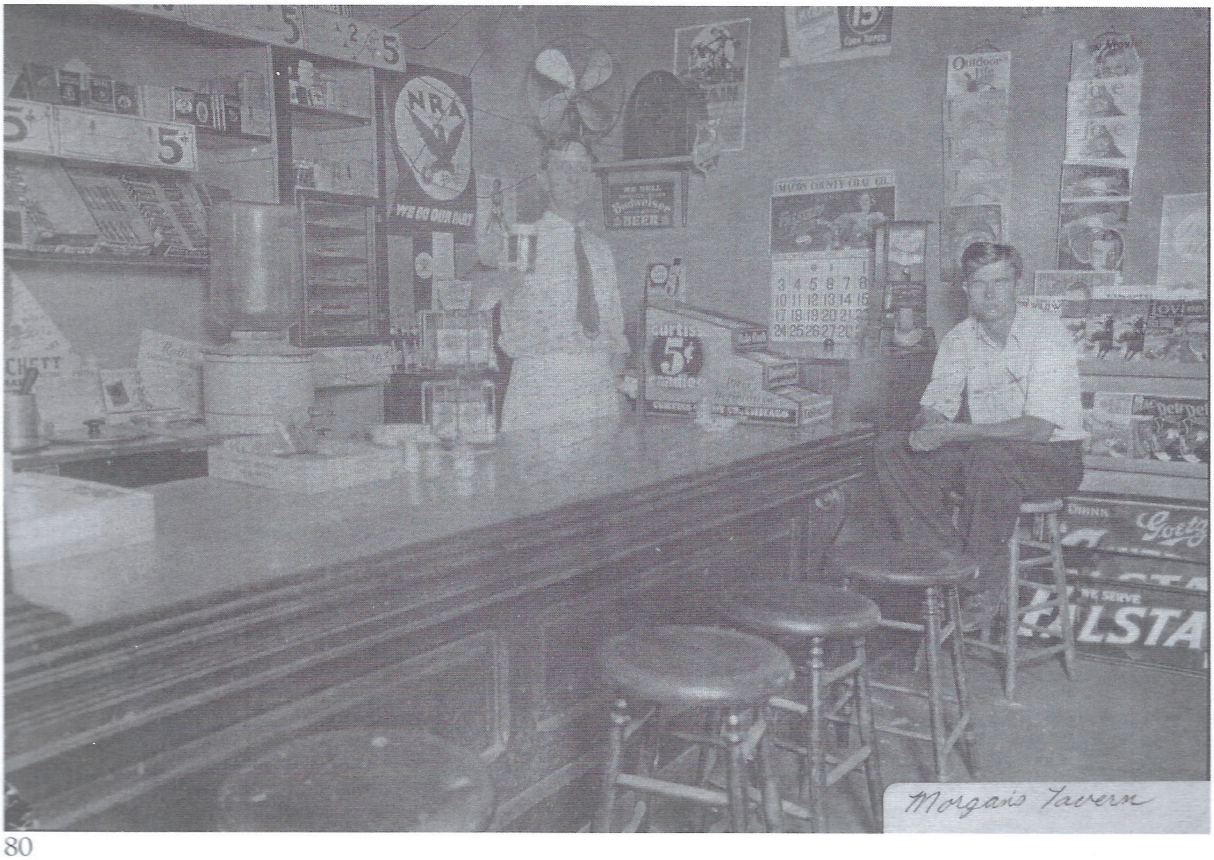
MAROA MFG. CO.,
MAROA, ILL.

MAROA MFG. CO., Maroa, Illinois

Ad for Maroa Manufacturing Company. They were first makers of corn dumps and flexible harrows. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.

Peter Baird, 1815-1880. Father of Sarah (Lyons), Lydia (Potter), Elizabeth (Cox), Laura (Stoutenborough), and Arabella (Crocker).

Special awards from the Centennial, Pattie and Terri Wikoff and Melissa and Julie Miller.


NRA
WE DO OUR PART
Outdoor Life
MACON COUNTY COAL CO.
Budweiser BEER
Curtiss 5¢ candies
WE SERVE FALSTAFF
Goetz
Morgan's Tavern

Morgan Tavern with some cool signage all around. Picture circa 1920. Photo courtesy of M&M Café

They had two children: Guy, born March 6, 1903, and Grace, born August 13, 1905. Guy is Unit Superintendent of Christian County Schools and resides in Taylorville, Illinois. He married Gladys M. Gates of Alton, April 9,1927, and they have one daughter, Jean, born in Taylorville, July 21, 1928. She is Mrs. Jack E. Parker of Champaign. His parents are Velma and Bertha (Gardner) Parker of Decatur.

Grace was married to Virgil Lemuel Wikoff, son of Richard Bernard and Nellie (Hutchinson) Wikoff, June 3, 1925. They lived in Decatur until January of 1930, when they moved to a farm southwest of Maroa, where they now live.

Their son, Virgil Cornwell Wikoff, was born February 6, 1927, in Decatur, Illinois. He enlisted in the Navy in January, 1945, and served for eighteen months. He was recalled to duty with the reserves in July, 1951, and served until October of 1952 when he was again released to inactive duty. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois, with a B.S. degree in Fine and Applied Arts.

Virgil was married August 23, 1947, to Ruth Helen Moore, daughter of Edwin J. and Ruth (Davis) Moore of Maroa. She was born November 26, 1928, in Decatur, Illinois.

They have two daughters: Terrill Joanne, born in Clinton, Illinois, October 1, 1950, and Patricia Suzanne, born in Clinton, April 11, 1952.

Virgil and his family live in Champaign where he is an architect and contractor.

William Cornwell's daughter Grace was married to D. Elmer Denise of Maroa. They were the parents of six children: Chester and Harold, now deceased, Garet Robert of Maywood, Illinois, Mrs. Cornise Detjen of Berwick, Pennymus of Joliet, Illinois.

Grace Cornwell Denise died in Berwick, Pennsylvania, January 18, 1949.

WASHINGTON CRANDALL

Washington Crandall was born of Scottish parents in Circleville, Ohio, in 1814. He came to Illinois in 1852 and settled near Maroa. He was a United Brethren minister serving the Shiloh and Cumberland churches until he moved to Maroa at the age of 66. He was the father of Susan (Bowden) and Christopher C. Crandall. Mr. Crandall died in 1888, having been preceded in death by his wife in 1885.

Susann Crandall came with her parents from Ohio at the age of thirteen and lived with them on a farm five and one-half miles east of Maroa. Four years later she came to Maroa to make her home at the Illinois Central Railroad station with the Crocker family. There were at that time only four residences in Maroa.

When the Civil War broke out, Susann returned to the farm home of her parents to help her father with his farm work. Her two elder brothers had joined the Union Army and a third brother was in Medical College preparing to become a physician. At that time mail was received from Monticello and Susann took her turn posting and bringing the mail.

After the war she came back to Maroa and remained with the Crocker family until her marriage to Elias P. Bowden in 1865. Mr. Bowden started to work in the Crocker grain elevator in 1867, before the plant was completed. In a year or two he became foreman, following W. J. Compton, and remained in that capacity until the elevator was torn down to be replaced by a larger and more modern structure in 1911.

Mr. and Mrs. Bowden were the parents of nine children, three of whom survive: B. L. Bowden of Dubuque, Iowa, and Arthur V. and Iva (Mrs. George H. Malone) of Maroa. Mr. Bowden died in 1912 and his wife in 1920 at the age of 80.

Christopher C. Crandall was born near Chillicothe, Ohio, in 1841 and came to the Maroa vicinity with his parents in 1852. In 1861, with many other young men, he enlisted in the 41st Illinois Volunteers in Co. A and went to the front. He was taken prisoner in 1863 but never interned in a prison, being moved from place to place with the enemy's camp and finally exchanged. He was mustered out at Springfield in August 1864.

In 1878 Mr. Crandall married Martha Daves of near Cisco and they went to housekeeping in the northeast part of Maroa where they lived the rest of their lives. They had two sons, Claude and Paul, who now live in California.

Mr. Crandall lived in Maroa for forty years and for thirty-eight years of that time served continuously either as Justice of the Peace or as police magistrate. He died in 1914.

CROUCH FAMILY

Dr. Rolla O. Crouch (1880-1961), son of Nathan Crouch and Flora Tena Waller, graduated from the Chicago School of Dental Surgery in 1902. He began his practice of Dentistry in Maroa that year.

His first wife. Fanny Compton of Maroa, died in 1918 in the great flu epidemic. Their son, Tim, died in 1964.

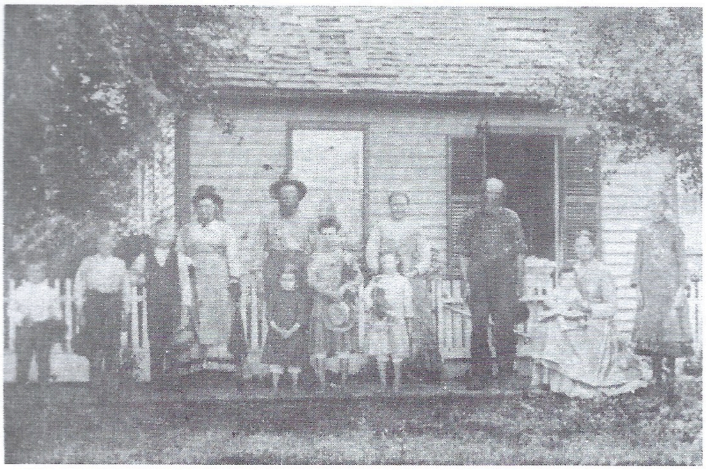
In 1922 he married Mary Effie Means of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and in 1950 their son, Dr. Rolla M. Crouch, after graduating from Dental school in Chicago, joined him in practice in Maroa. Dr. R. 0. Crouch died in 1961 and Mary Effie in 1962.

Rolla M. Crouch married Virginia Holt in Pine Bluff, Arkansas on December 2, 1943. They have three children. James Crouch of

Chicago, Illinois, Robert Crouch of Woodland Park, Colorado, and Carol of Freeburg, Illinois.

Robert married Mary Kay Wayne of Decatur, and they have two children—a daughter, Kimberly, and a son, Robert S. Crouch, Jr. Carol married Glennon Schlitt of Oran, Missouri. They have two sons—Brian and Kevin.
Dr. Rolla M. Crouch died in 1988.

THE ISAAC DILL FAMILY



Pictured left to right are
C. W. Leach, unknown, E. F. Wright, Mrs. McCord, child unknown, Jacob James Leach, Clara Hackney, Etta Leach, Elizabeth Leach, Thomas Hackney, Emma Leach, Mary A. Hackney and Laura Wright.
This picture was made in 1883.
The residence was one of the first houses built in Maroa.

The Isaac Dill family came to Maroa, Illinois from Butler County, Ohio in 1855, making the journey in an ox drawn wagon. The family, at that time, consisted of Isaac Dill, age 32; his wife, Mary Ann Bross Dill, age 30; four children: Catherine, age 9; Elizabeth, age 6; William, age 4; and Mary Ann, age 1. Also with them was Amos Dill, 19 year old brother of Isaac Dill, who lived with them as one of the family for six years after they came to Maroa.

The family settled on a farm in the "Ridge" community, west of Maroa, and the children attended the "Upper Ridge" school.

Two more children were born to the Isaac Dills: Jacob, in 1857; and Ellen, in 1860. But death also visited the family. On February 27, 1860, the oldest child, Catherine, died; and a month later, March 27, 1860, Isaac Dill died, aged 37. The family attended the "Ridge" church, and Isaac Dill's grave was the first one in the "Ridge" churchyard cemetery.

Soon after the death of Isaac Dill, his widow, Mrs. Mary Ann Dill, and her five children moved from the farm into Maroa, to the house on South Oak Street, facing the railroad, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. John Osborn. The house was built for Mrs. Dill and is one of the oldest residences in Maroa.

Among the soldiers returning at the close of the Civil War, was Thomas A. Hackney, who had come to Texas Township in 1858 from Virginia. Thomas Hackney and Mrs. Mary Ann Dill were married in 1867 and continued to live in the house on South Oak Street until their deaths: he at the age of 60, and she at the age of 85. They had one daughter, Clara Belle, born in 1869.

All of the Isaac Dill children and Clara Hackney married and lived most of their lives in or near Maroa. However, the only ones living in Maroa and the community at Maroa's Centennial in 1954, are the descendants of Elizabeth Dill.

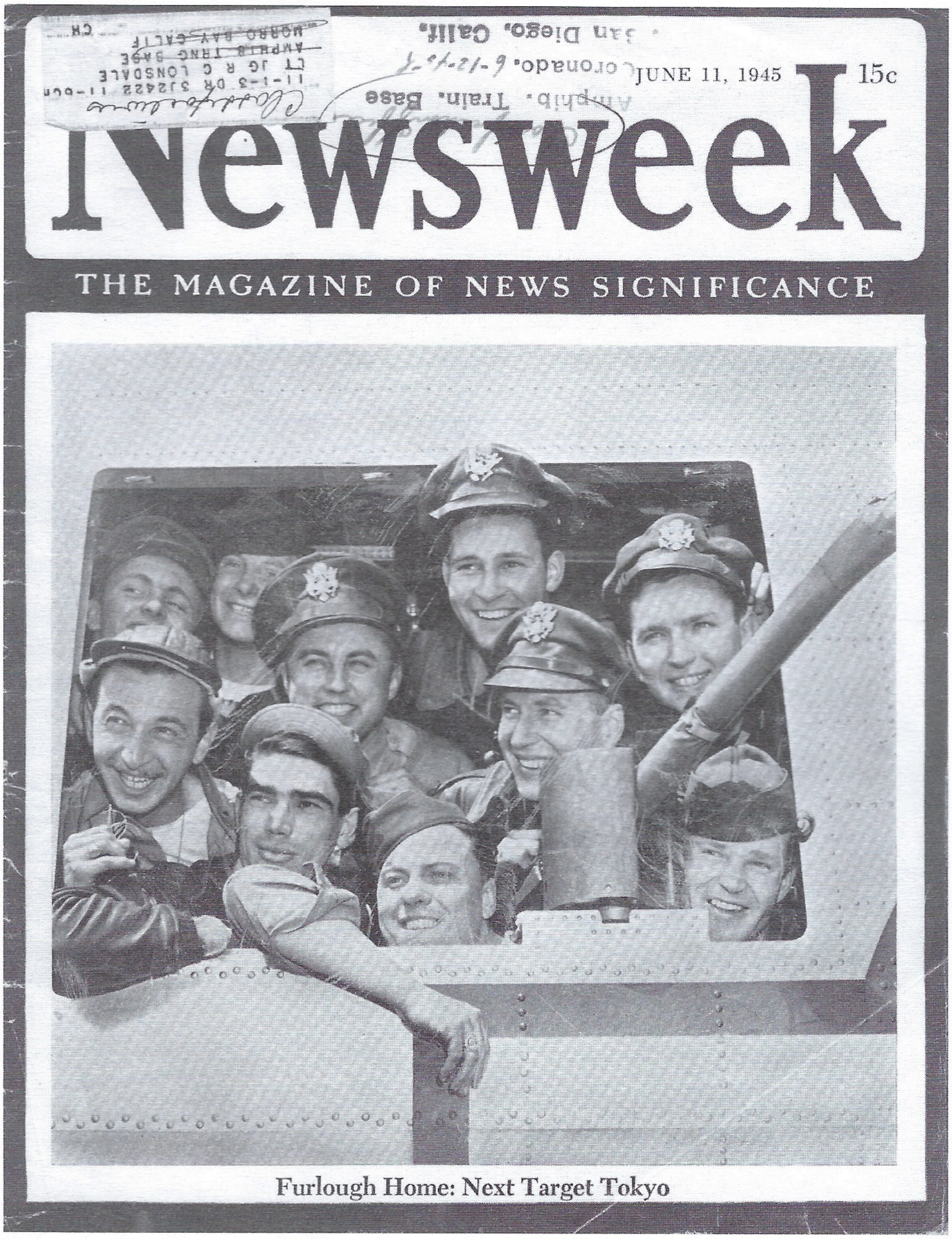
Elizabeth Dill was married in 1863 to John H. Wright. They, too, lived on a farm in the Ridge district, and their three children were born: Charles M., in 1865; Laura, in 1867; and Ebbert F., in 1870. In December 1870 typhoid fever took the life of John H. Wright at the age of 30. So another young widow and her small children moved into Maroa, into a two-roomed house on South Oak Street, just block south of her mother, Mrs. Hackney. And, in 1872, another Civil War soldier came to Maroa.

Elizabeth Dill Wright and Jacob James Leach were married November 23, 1873. The little two-roomed house was enlarged and was the Leach family home until the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Leach in 1938 at the age of 89. Six children were born to "Jim" and Elizabeth Leach: Etta, who was later Mrs. Lawrence Stonebraker, died 1941; Clarence W. Leach, who lived many years in Denver, Colorado, died 1947; Emma, who is Mrs. Albert Riskind of Eagle Pass, Texas; Emmett J. Leach, who farms near Maroa; Joseph, who died in infancy; and Virgil A. Leach who was a building contractor in 1954 and lives on South Oak Street in Maroa, next door to the old Leach home which he owns.

Of the more than 200 descendants of the Isaac Dills, 151 are the descendants of Elizabeth Dill. Twenty-five of these are living in or near Maroa at this time, 1954: Eva Wright Bennett, Leia Wright Howell, her son James Howell and his sons, Robert and Richard; Ercel Wright Stuller, her son Alien Stuller, her daughter Aldah Stuller McIlvenna and her daughters, Ruth Ann McIlvenna and Nancy McIlvenna Pryde; Emmet J. Leach, a son Arthur M. Leach, another son, Leonard E. Leach and his children Trevor and Loretta, and a daughter Rosalie Leach Paceley and son Kenneth; Virgil A. Leach, daughter Marjorie Leach, son Charles E. Leach and children Beverly and Belinda, another son, James W. Leach and children James J. and John W. Leach. A number of Elizabeth Dill descendants live in Decatur, III; the others are scattered through many states and from coast to coast.

Aldah Stuller McIlvenna, deceased
Her daughter, Nancy McIlvenna Pryde, deceased

Leonard Leach married Mary Alice Rybolt and they had two


JUNE 11, 1945
15c
Newsweek
THE MAGAZINE OF NEWS SIGNIFICANCE
Furlough Home: Next Target Tokyo

In 1945 an Associated Press photographer took this photo. It was in the Decatur evening paper (Decatur Review) and also the morning paper, The Herald. Charles is in the upper left second from end in the Army Cap. From Top row left is Joe Carl, Charlie, Elmer Schindler, Ed Fronko, Two middle guys L to R Lieutenant Orville Berda, John Cooley, Bottom row Lou Singer, Henry Spears, Charles Smith, and Paul Bordwich. Eighth Air Force B24 bomber crew. You may see this photo in many different WWII photos. They flew 10 months without any injuries. "We got the heck shot out of us". They also made 3 emergency landings. After first 9 missions, they were the lead crew and the first one in over the target. During the Battle of the Bulge 2033 B24 and B17 planes were dispatched. This did not include any two engine planes that were involved. The proved to be the biggest air raid that will ever be staged. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.

TIDBIT

My favorite things about Maroa are: The feeling that everyone helps each other, and prays for each other when times are tough, and that we celebrate together to enjoy the fun times.

Ray Ramirez DVM Sesquicentennial committee member age: 43

children; Trevor and Loretta Faye. Trevor married Janice Tarr and they have a son, Cedric, who graduated from Maroa-Forsyth High School in 2004. Loretta Faye married James Parks. They have a son, Leonard, who will be a senior in Maroa-Forsyth High School in 2004-2005.

Virgil and Margaret Leach are both deceased. They had six children.
Mary Caroline. She has two sons, Bruce and Lee, and two daughters, Patty and Nancy. All live in and near Washington, Illinois. She has a son, bob, and a daughter, Barbara, who are both deceased.

Charles married Juanita LaThome Willis. She is deceased. Charles resides at 310 S. Oak, Maroa, Illinois. He is retired from, Wagner Castings Co.. He is a veteran ofW. W. H. He graduated from Maroa High School. They had three children. Beverly married William Leimbach, Sr. and they reside in Clinton, Illinois. They have five children: William, Jr. in Leesburgh, VA David in Decatur. Illinois. Charles in Sturgis, KY, Matthew in Clinton, Illinois, and Sara who resides in Pekin, Illinois.

Belinda, their second child is married to Jerry Lee Stiles and they live in rural DeWitt, Illinois. She has a son Raymond Howard Stroup. Charles, their third child, is married to Tina Marie Ferrill and they have a son, Charles Ross, who is a student in Maroa-Forsyth Elementary School. Charles is employed by Wagner Casting Co. and Tina is a secretary at Maroa-Forsyth High School.

James (Jim) Leach married Mary Agee. Jim worked at Caterpillar in Decatur as a Systems Analyst for 28 years, retiring in 1983. They

Leach Family in 1961.
Front row left to right: Ruth, Margaret, Virgil, Caroline, Marjorie
Back row: John, Charles, Jim.

had two sons at the time of the Centennial in 1954. A daughter, Karen Louise, was born in 1957. James J. and his wife Ariel live in Temecula, CA, and he has a daughter, Shannon. She and her husband, Monte Batson, live in Albuquerque, N.M. John is a brick mason and resides is Maroa with his wife Diana, John has a son. John, Jr., living in Maroa and he and Tamara Moore have a daughter, Rebecca Nichole. He is employed at Four Winds in Maroa. Karen, with her husband. Randy Melvin, reside in New Jersey. They have a son Lance and a daughter Malia.

John and wife, Shirley Harshbarger Leach, live in Wichita Kansas.. They have a son, Doug. He and his wife have two daughters who live in Houston Texas. A son, Michael, and his wife, Jane, live in Overland Park, Kansas.

Marjorie married Jack Miller, who is deceased. Marjorie has retired from teaching at Bowling Green University in Ohio and lives in Bowling Green, Ohio. She has a daughter, Margaret who is married to Eamesto Stein and they live in Potomac, Maryland. They have three daughters:Katherine, Emily, and Julia. Marjorie also has a son, Ed. He and his wife Jennifer live in Evanston, Illinois. They have a son, George Henry.

FERREE FAMILY

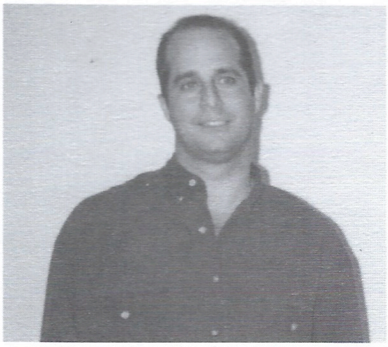
Snowden L. and Phoebe Jane (Smith) Ferree were early residents of Maroa, having come from Ohio to Kenney and on to Maroa. Snowden was born in 1859 in Ohio and Phoebe was born in 1855.

Their children were Bertha (Braden), John L., Nettie (Potter), Francis Lee, Allie (Leach) and Harry V. There are fourteen grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren. Mr. Ferree died in 1892 and his wife died in 1939.

(The above article was a part of the 1954 Centennial History Book) We proceed with more information.
May 27, 2004
The Ferree family originated in France. . Madame Ferree, the widow of Daniel Ferree, secured a certificate of standing and passport and they set out for England to make further arrangements regarding their settlement in America. Upon their arrival in London, Madame Ferree visited W. Penn in person and he introduced her to Queen Ann. The good Queen promise her substantial aid and Wm. Penn consented to get her a tract of land, which she obtained upon her settlement in Pennsylvania, Lancaster County. They came to America in 1712. The Madame dealt with the Indians and owned land in Paradise, Pennsylvania.

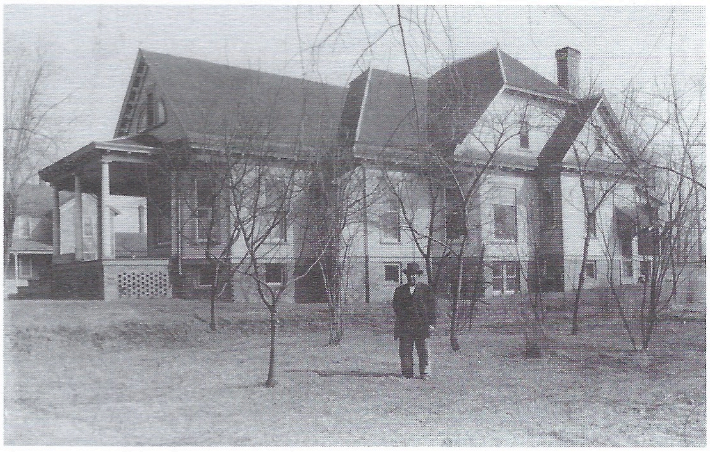
Ferree Family 1909
Back row left to right: Harriett (Potter) Ferree, cousin of Bruce Potter - Bruce Potter - Harry V John Ferree - Bertha (Ferree) Braden - Francis Lee Ferree - Derrick Braden (holding Edwin Braden) Seated: Phoebe Jane Ferree holding Bonnie Ferree (daughter of John)) - Mae Braden and Ernest Braden are not seated in middle row. Ladies in front: Nettie (Ferree) Potter - Allie (Ferree) Leach

Mance, Alexia, Katrina, and Noah Thoms at their home at 300 South Walnut street in 2004.



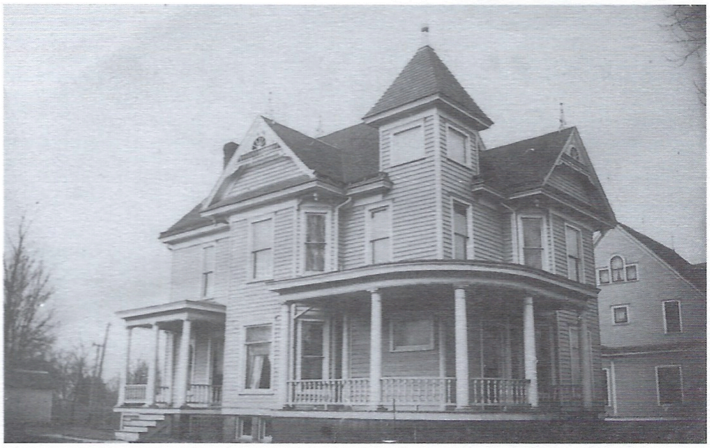
Phil Seaman Maroa Co-op Grain Elevator Manager from 1989 - 1995

231 North Wood is Ed and Marla Powers home. It was originally the home of Mr and Mrs. Basel Cooper. Before the Powers bought the house, Bruce and Norma Miles owned the home.



300 S. Walnut - photo from 1910.

300 S. Walnut - photo from 2004.



231 North Wood in 1902.

Now, many generations after, we tell of our great-grandmother, Phoebe Jane (Jennie) Ferree. She married Snowden L. Ferree and he died of appendicitis at the age of 33, leaving her with six children to raise. She lived at 303 W. Washington, Maroa and did washings and ironing to support her family.

The picture shown was taken on the front porch of her home in Maroa. All of those pictured are deceased. There are several grandchildren living. Caroline (Leach) Phelps of Peoria, Mary (Ferree) Miller, Decatur and Dorothy J. (Braden) Cisco of Maroa. Several great grandchildren, Ruth Ann (Braden) Wilson, Robert E. Braden, Steve Braden, Ron Braden, all of Maroa, Charlotte (Braden) Crabtree, Decatur, Bill Schroeder, Jane (Schroeder) Blanchard of Chicago, Mary (Schroeder) Gualano, Florida, Margaret J. (Hawks) VonBoechman, Russel Hawks, Metamora. And many other great great grandchildren are in other vicinities. Several nieces and nephews are in other places. This will close the history of the Ferree family to my knowledge. By Dorothy J. (Braden) Cisco May 2004.

THE GRAY FAMILY

George Gray, Sr., was born in County Antrim, Ireland, in April 1775. We do not know when he came to America but many Irish and Scotch Protestants came to America from this part of Ireland in the years 1782, 1791. Several families by the name of Gray lived in Abbeville County, South Carolina. At present we have no record of relationship between our ancestors, George Gray, Sr., and these families.

On March 6, 1811 George Gray, Sr. married Margaret McKinney. She was born in Abbeville County, South Carolina on March 10, 1791. (A Robert McKinney lived in Abbeville County in 1790, but we do not know if Margaret was his daughter.)

Residence of D. N. Gray, North Wood Street. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.

After the marriage of George Gray, Sr. and Margaret, whom he has called "Peggy" in all his records, they went to a farm about 50 miles east of Natchez, Mississippi, to make their home. Here they lived for 24 years and here all of their five children were born.

On October 29, 1813, George Gray, Sr. enlisted in Capt. John Lowery's Company of Mississippi Militia and served as a private until April 28, 1814. He was mustered out of service at New Orleans.

In the Spring of 1835 George Gray, Sr. and his wife "Peggy" with their little family, traveled up the Mississippi River on a steamboat to the new land which was being settled.

Margaret Gray

Their children were: Robert, age 13; George, Jr., age 12; Caroline, age 9; John Newland, age 6; Rosanna, age 3. At Shawnee-town they left the boat to seek their new home on Illinois soil. Soon they went to Naples by boat and bought a farm near Lynnville, Illinois, where they settled. They purchased a farm of 120 acres, one and one-half miles west of Lynnville from Nathan Winters. Here on February 11, 1840, George Gray, Sr. died and was buried in Kincaid Cemetery, 5 miles west of Lynnville, Illinois.

John Newland Gray married Miss Rosa Jane Funk, Feb. 13, 1851. In the fall of 1854 John N. Gray, and his brother George, Andersen Kemp and M. P. Funk came to Maroa and bought land on the ridge west of town. They bought material and let contracts for the erection of houses on their respective places and then returned home.

The main line of the Illinois Central Railroad was just being completed and it is a note worthy fact that these men paid the first freight charges for a car of brick which they shipped from Decatur. In the Spring of 1855 these four men and their families moved overland in covered wagons drawn by ox teams, and settled on the farms which they had bought the previous fall and on which houses had been built during the winter. John N. Gray settled on what has ever since been the Gray homestead.

George and Margaret (Peggy) Gray

The mother, "Peggy," came with her two sons, John Newland and George Gray. Robert came the next year. The mother died June 11, 1880, age 89 years, and was buried in the cemetery southeast of Kenney. She was a member of the Baptist Church at Tunbridge.

George and Peggy Gray, cir 1811

When they came in 1855 the country was wild prairie. Mr. Gray was one of the pioneers who helped to reduce the virgin soil to a state of cultivation. The house he built was one of the first on the road leading west from Maroa. This was his home until his removal to Maroa Nov. 29, 1886, when he left the farm work to his son, Henry Benton Gray.
He and his wife united with the Methodist Protestant Church west of Maroa in 1857 under the pastorate of Elder L. M. Robinson, and in 1905 transferred their membership to the Methodist Church in Maroa, Rev. R. W. Ennis, pastor.

They had six children, Lydia Ann, who married Charles 0. Austin Dec. 8, 1870. She died Sept. 23, 1937. Albert, who died Sept. 20, 1861. Hannah E., who married John P. Parker Feb. 11, 1875. She died Nov. 26, 1914. Mary Ellen married Geo. H. Vernon Dec. 30, 1880. She died June 15, 1947. Henry Benton married Dora E. Kerwood Jan. 10, 1884. He died Dec. 10, 1902. David Nimrod married Maria Anna Williams Dec. 20, 1893, died Oct. 12, 1952.

John N. Gray died Aug. 26, 1911; his wife, Rosa Jane, died March 15, 1910.

Henry Benton Gray had four children, Rena Fazel, Petersburg, Va., who had two children, a daughter Mary, and son Charles, killed in Battle of the Bulge; Essa Gray, Maroa; Otto, killed in World War I; and Howard.

Howard E. Gray married Lois M. Lawrence Sept. 12, 1929. Their son John L. Gray married Nancy Ann Loveless Dec. 5, 1948; their son George Robert was born Oct. 29, 1950. Howard E. and John L., with their family now live on the Gray Homestead.

George Gray, Jr. was born Oct. 17, 1823 near Natchez, Mississippi, married Eliza Ann Clough March 22, 1846 at Lynnville, Illinois. Came to Maroa, Illinois in the Fall of 1854, bought land west of Maroa, moved here the next Spring with his family. George died June 14, 1891 at Lyons, Kansas, buried at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois.

Eliza Ann was born Sept. 24, 1824 at Pontefract, England; eleven children were born to this union. She died at Lyons, Kansas Aug. 24, 1923, buried by the side of her husband in Springfield, Illinois.

Robert Gray was born near Natchez, Miss., March 15, 1822. He married Catherine L. Funk on Dec. 18, 1842. She was born Jan. 8, 1824 in Clinton, Tennessee. They resided in Lynnville, Illinois, moving to Maroa Township in 1855 to live on a farm, which they had purchased the previous year. Four children were born to this union. Mrs. Gray died Oct. 3, 1870 and her husband on Sept. 7, 1882. Both are buried in the Upper Ridge cemetery, west of Maroa.

THE CARL GRISSOM FAMILY

The Carl Grissom family moved to a farm located a mile east and a mile and a half south of Maroa from Decatur, Macon County in 1954. The move was made during the celebration of the centennial of Maroa. While parades and celebrations were going on in the town of Maroa we found a way to meet a lot of new people.

1960's picture of the Grissom Family farm.

Five children were born to Carl and Alene, four of them were born in Cumberland County, Illinois. Everett Carl was born January 31, 1941; Lela Marie was born February 6, 1946; Letha Mae was born December 28, 1946; and Viola Kay was born on December 23, 1947. Velma was born July 10, 1949 in Decatur, Macon County, Illinois. Three of the children were to be enrolled at Maroa Grade School: Lela, Letha and Viola. Velma was only 4 ½ at the time, so she would have to wait a year. Everett would be enrolled in Maroa Junior High, which was also located in the Grade School top floor.

Community of Maroa

The small community of Maroa would be affected by this family in many ways. In addition to farming Carl Grissom hauled coal for several years during the winter months. Carl, Everett and Rev. Donald Etnier built some homes in town. There is a Grissom Street named for Carl Grissom where some of these houses are built. Carl Grissom was one of the first to start an irrigation system.

Once during the fall harvest our dad, Carl, had pleurisy and was unable to finish his crops. It was a day that will always be remembered. We will never forget the sight of all those combines driving up our driveway and then out into the fields to finish the harvest. The sight of those farmers helping would stay with all of us the rest of our lives. When we think of Maroa we think of the community that always seems to be there when someone really needs them. There is always someone there to help or they will find someone if they can't.

Grissom Family sing and play instruments

The Grissom Family all sang and traveled for many years before moving to Maroa and continued to sing the whole time they lived in Maroa. Someone from Greenup, Illinois once said "Those girls sure can sing even though they can't carry a tune in a bucket"(we were ages three thru seven at the time). Maybe being able to carry a tune in a bucket was way off base, but we loved to sing and our parents helped us to do our best. Under the instruction of Mrs. Doris Dotson, music teacher for Maroa Grade and Maroa High School, we were able to make those tunes on key. She worked with us many hours to try and give a harmony of voice and spirit. Not only did Mrs. Dotson work with us but the band director also gave us special lessons. Mr. Thompson was the person who started us all on a musical instrument. Mr. Thompson was a tremendous band director. He taught all five of us. Everett played a trumpet; Lela played the trombone; Letha played the trumpet; Viola played a clarinet and then a tenor saxophone; and Velma played the Altonian (similar to a small Baritone) horn. Those practice sessions at home were done outside many times with the sky being an open sound room. We could play as long and as loud as we wanted. Sometimes the dogs would become our audience. They loved to howl and we loved to make them howl. Once Mr. Thompson threatened Viola with a spanking if she didn't practice her saxophone. His bark was pretty loud, but when he said something like that it made you practice.

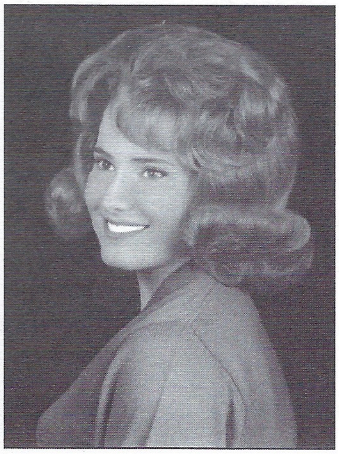
Joseph Stafford Residence 403 East Jackson just being finished. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.

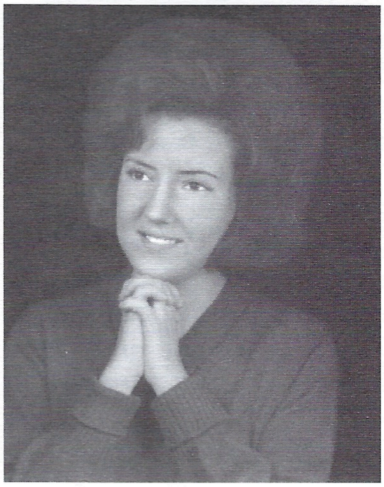
Mr. Wood our Band Director and Principal

Mr. Wood became the Band Director during our high school years. One day when we came to band practice he told the band that some guys had gone through the band room and stolen what they could. These guys stole parts of the instruments that they could make noise with. They stole the mouthpiece to Viola's saxophone along with other parts of other horns. Mr. Wood knew who they were because they went down Main Street blowing them. The guys had to buy and replace the items they stole. They had to purchase a brand new mouthpiece along with the other musical pieces they took. Mr. Wood made sure they got the best mouthpiece. The one they had to buy was better than the one they stole.

When Mr. Wood became the principal he decided to really crack down on tardies. We all loved Mr. Wood and knew that if he said he was going to punish you for being tardy then he would. Velma and Viola were late for school one morning and knew that if they were late they would have to do after school study hall. Viola was driving about 90 mph on the country road to try and make it to school on time. You could sometimes drive on those country roads and see for miles. There was no one around except this old truck which was driving so slow (Eck Runyen's truck). It was going so slow that Viola stayed on the horn as she passed him. She said, "Why is he going so slow? He never drives that slow." After finally getting pass the truck, Velma and Viola just barely made it in time. That same day when they got home from school and walked in the front door their dad said to Viola "You're grounded for two weeks." He was the one who had been driving Eck Runyen's truck. So for two weeks Viola had to face the humiliation of her little sister driving her to school.

As we continued singing in churches, special school events and all





Some day you girls will put Maroa on the map.

Top left: Letha Mae Grissom, Top right: Velma Frances Grissom, Bottom: Viola Kay Grissom

MEMORIAL FOR VELMA FRANCES GRISSOM

WALKING IN PEACE BESIDE A GREATER SEA

Velma Grissom, 17, drowned in the Gulf of Mexico June 6, 1967. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Grissom, Route 2, Maroa.

The drowning occurred about 5 p.m. while Velma and her sisters, Letha and Viola, were walking on the beach at Destin, Fla. They were swept into the ocean by the tide.

The sisters are students at International Bible College in San Antonio, Texas and had been sent by the school to sing at a church camp.

Funeral services will be held Saturday at 2 p.m. in Harmony Church, two miles north of Greenup, with burial in the church cemetery. The three sisters have recently made recordings. "Walking in Peace" will be played at the service. Visitation will be held Thursday from 4 to 9 p.m. at Ruble's Funeral Home and will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at the Hiles Funeral Home in Greenup.

Miss Grissom was born July 10, 1949, daughter of Carl and Alene Decker Grissom. She was a member of Hillside Bethel Tabernacle Church in Decatur.

She attended Maroa-Forsyth High School through the junior year and attended International Bible College for her senior year and first year of college.

Besides her parents she leaves a brother Everett of Maroa; three sisters, Mrs. James (Lela) Campbell of Greenup and Letha and Viola of Maroa; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Elza Decker of Greenup and Mrs. Zetta Ingram of Charleston.

The Prairie Post, Thursday, June 8, 1967, Maroa, Illinios.

night singings we also included our instruments. Our brother Everett and our father played their instruments with us. Our father played the cornet; so the whole family played except for our mother. Alene Grissom just gave us lots of love and support. She was the force that gave the push when needed; the desire to do better, and the strength to keep on. We played our instruments in the band at school and also sang in the choir. We played for the basketball games, marched in the marching band for football, and participated in all the concerts. Those are memories that will always live on. Everett graduated from Maroa-Forsyth in 1959. Lela did not graduate from Maroa High School. She wanted to finish her High School Senior year at a Bible School in San Antonio, Texas. Letha graduated in the year of 1965 and Viola graduated in 1966. Velma and Viola were in a head on collision north of Maroa the summer of 1965. Velma had a scull fracture and Viola had some cuts, bruises and a head wound. It was a miracle that Velma survived, but she did with much prayer and love from her family and friends. Velma did not want to break up the trio, so she too

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GRISSOMS: FAMILY OF MUSIC MAKERS

Taken from the Decatur Daily, Vol.82-No.121,
Friday, May 22, 1959

By Joyce Thompson of the Review Staff

The five children of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Grissom play band instruments so it may have been in self defense that the father bought a trumpet and joined the family band.

Now the only one left out of the family music making is Mrs. Grissom who is chief in charge of seeing that everyone practices.

Mrs. Grissom admits it is probably a good thing that the music-making family lives on a farm with some space between them and their neighbors. The Grissoms live a mile east and 1 ½ miles south of Maroa.

The five children attend Maroa schools where they are instructed in band instruments by John A. Thompson. In addition the two oldest girls take piano lessons from Mrs. C. O. Grubbs.

The children and their instruments are:

Everett, 18, trumpet
Lela, 13, trombone
Letha, 12, trumpet
Viola, 11, clarinet
Velma, 9, altonium.

Everett is a senior at Maroa High School. The girls attend Maroa Grade School.

Contest Winners

All of the Grissoms are consistent winners in district and state solo and ensemble contests and the spring months around contest time become pretty rugged around the Grissom household.

Mrs. Grissom says that as in most homes, it is sometimes a chore to get the children to practice all they should, but she has the edge over some worrying mother. Nearly always there is at least one horn being blown somewhere around the house.

THE GRISSOM FAMILY PLAYING INSTRUMENTS: Back row: Left to right: Mr. Carl Grissom on trumpet, Everett on trumpet, Lela on trombone. Front row left to right: Letha on trumpet, Velma on altonium, Viola on clarinet . Picture taken in their home May 1959

The father's interest in music started when he was a student in Greenup schools and played in the school band. He didn't do anything with his music for several years, but after the children started playing musical instruments, he decided he would like to join the group so he bought a cornet. Now it is an enjoyable hobby to follow when his farming chores leave him time.

The Grissoms, in solo, duet, trio, quartet, quintet or even in a sextet, play at churches, reunions and anniversary celebrations. Mrs. Grissom is an interested spectator and the children might say "slave driver."

This summer Everett will attend the American Legion's Boys State at Springfield where he will play in the band.

The Grissoms are unusual because there are times when the television is shut off and this family gathers to make its own entertainment just like in the good ole days when family bands and orchestras were not so uncommon.

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finished her senior year at the Bible School we attended. At the end of the school year the President of the college asked us to travel for the school. We were used to traveling and we had just finished a recording called "We Shall Walk". Two weeks after the school year ended we started our journey with our chaperones Bob and Sandy Lauver. We had about four hours before we were due at a camp meeting so we decided to stop beside the ocean to rest and relax. Viola was on the shore watching her two sisters walk beside the water with their chaperones. They were about ankle deep in the ocean when suddenly they were swept out. Velma drowned that day and Letha's life was spared. As the news was on national TV and radio broadcasts, the words of Mrs. Doris Dotson came to remembrance.

We never dreamed it would be like that. After Velma's funeral Letha stopped by Mrs. Dotson's home to give her a copy of our record album. Our record album was a reward for the twelve years of training she gave us. The people in the Maroa community once again came through to give their help in any way they could. Ross Ferrell was on the phone line when the emergency call came through to my parents. He contacted a friend to fly our dad to Florida. The list would become endless if we were to name all those who helped. That's where you would have to say the whole community of Maroa helped. The newspaper editor of our hometown newspaper, the Maroa Prairie Post, printed an article about Velma's drowning. He titled it "Walking in Peace Beside a Greater Sea." Those words were engraved on her tombstone.

Graduating from Maroa Forsyth High School

Letha was the Valedictorian of her class of 1965 and was also the editor of the yearbook. Viola and Velma were in the Girls Ensemble for two years. Viola was on the Student Council for two years and Velma served for one year. We were all in the chorus and band participating in all the contests each year for chorus and band.

Everett completed his high school years and has lived in Maroa since marrying Margaret Day. He has had three daughters to graduate from Maroa-Forsyth High School: Robin Margaret, Angela Nanette and Dayna Lee. Not long after Everett and Margaret were married they remodeled the old school house a half-mile south from the Carl Grissom farm. After living in this house for several years they bought the Andes farm north of Maroa and have lived there ever since. Everett has served the community in many different ways; the school board, farming, etc. He owned and operated the Standard Oil Service Station for several years and has been with Wiese until retirement. He played his trumpet for his home church until just recently. He has been involved through the years with different activities of the school and town. When he talks about Maroa, it's with awe. This is his home and always will be.

Lela married James Campbell also from Maroa. They had three children; Allen Carl, Stephen Lee and Sherlyn Kay. Lela lives in Cumberland County. She plays the piano for her church in southern Illinois.

Letha married Rev. Wesley Wuerch of Dallas, Texas. They have three children: Kristina Kay, Kathryn Kaleen and Kenneth Wesley. Letha is the principal of Hawkins Elementary in Hawkins, Texas. She is at present working toward her Superintendent's Certificate.Viola married Rev. Eugene Holder of Marietta, Georgia. They have two children; Letha Carolyn and David Eugene. Viola is the Archivist and Librarian for Southwestern Assemblies of God University in Waxahachie, Texas.

It has been a half of a century since our move to Maroa. Everett is still living on the Andes farm north of Maroa. The rest of us are living in different parts of the United States due to our job positions. Maroa gave us many happy memories as well as sad. We're proud of our heritage and we are proud to be from Maroa.

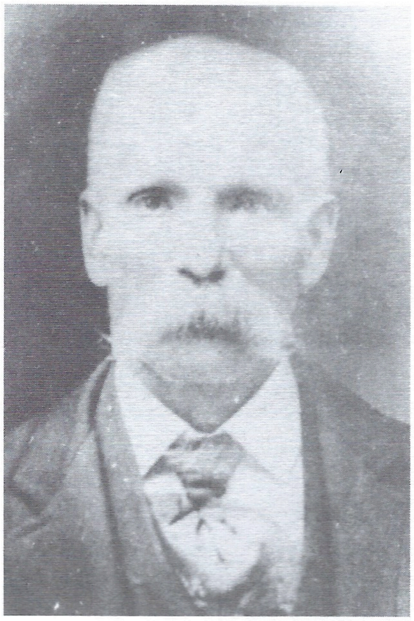
GROVES HISTORY

George Groves (one of eight children) was born in Milton, New Chippenarten county, Oxfordshire, England, about sixty miles northeast of London, December 10, 1839.

His father, a stonecutter, and the three youngest children, two boys (George and John) and one girl (Emily) left England in 1847 after the death of their wife and mother. The oldest brothers and sisters being married decided to remain in England.

They were three months crossing the ocean, landing in New York Harbor in late summer. They remained in New York only a short time, moving to Scott County, Jacksonville, Illinois.

The father worked as a stonecutter in building a new stone jail there. It was a family joke that George, who was 8 years of age and the youngest of the children brought from England, was the first person to be locked in the new jail. His father would lock him up to keep track of him while he was at work.


George Groves

George's father died one year after moving to Jacksonville, Illinois, leaving George in a strange land among strange people. A good family took him. He worked for his clothing and his board. He attended school a few weeks in the winter.

In the year 1856 he came to Maroa, Illinois, then just a railroad station with a few houses. Here he worked at anything he could find to do, until he saved enough money to purchase a yoke of oxen and a plow. With these he broke out the prairie, receiving so much per acre for the work. At night he would unyoke the oxen, and let them run on the prairie for their living. He accumulated enough money to buy 80 acres of land 2 miles west and three-fourths mile south of Maroa, Illinois.

On March 2, 1869 he was married to Elizabeth Rachel Nice at Delphi, Indiana. Returning to Maroa they went to housekeeping on the farm he had purchased. Two children were born to them. The first was Aura Belle, born June 28, 1870, now deceased. Next was William Oscar Otto, born November 19, 1871, living in Maroa at the time of the centennial in 1954.

In 1872 he sold this farm and bought 160 acres 2 miles south and 4 1/2 miles east of Maroa. In January, 1873, he completed a new house on this farm and moved into it. This house is still standing and in 1954 was occupied by his grandson, Velma W. Groves, and family.

Four more children were born at this location, Charles Henry, April 9. 1873; George Bertie, October 30, 1878; Nellie May, December 14, 1880; Harley Oren, December 10, 1885.

In the winter of 1887 he united with the Methodist Church, then holding revival meetings in the Prairie Chapel School house. In 1891 Epworth Chapel Church was built, and he became one of the Charter members and trustee, which office he held until his death. He saw the country around Maroa grow from a vast prairie land to a thickly settled farming community.

In the early part of February, 1912, he contracted a cold, which developed into pneumonia and the 25th of February passed away.

The funeral was held at Epworth Chapel which he helped build, with burial in Maroa cemetery.

William 0. Groves and Harley 0. Groves were the only children living in Maroa in 1954. A number of grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren wre also living in the Maroa community.

Benjamin Franklin Caplinger was a farmer until 1907, when he purchased the furniture and undertaking business located where Hippard's Dry Goods store has been for many years. James M. Rammel was his embalmer until 1909 when Mr. Caplinger became a licensed embalmer himself. He conducted this business until 1915 when he sold to B. F. Conner of Argenta and went into the implement business with C. Y. Miller and then back to farming.

In 1920 Mr. Caplinger returned to undertaking and gave to Maroa its first residence Funeral Home, located one block south of Main Street on Wood Street. This was known as The Caplinger Funeral Home. Mrs. Caplinger was Lady Assistant for a number of years, giving her time and talent as a singer for hundreds of funerals.

This home was remodeled and equipped to conform to every need; nicely furnished and decorated, it made a Funeral Home that Maroa was justly proud of, always having the best in equipment and giving the best in service.

About 1932, his eldest son, Leonard, went into the business with his father as an embalmer and funeral director. In 1939 Mr. Caplinger retired from active participation in the business and Leonard continued as manager until he sold to Leo Ruble in 1951.

HALICKI FAMILY

In 1936, Polish immigrants Eyzador Halicki and his wife Helen moved to the George and Helen Waller farm, located 3 miles East and I ¾ miles North of Maroa. They had five children, Chet, Hattie, Casimer, Stella, and Pete.

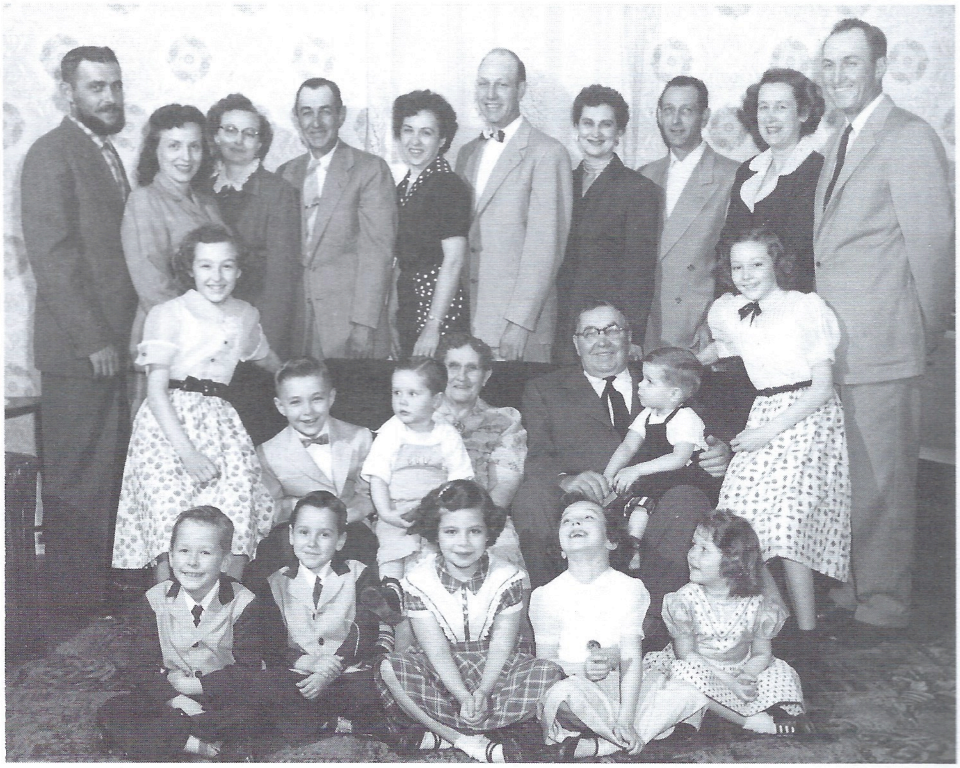
In the winter of 1951, Casimer and his wife Harriette moved to the farm and Eyzador and Helen moved into town. "Pop" Halicki, as he was affectionately known, was Maroa's Chief of Police. During Maroa's Centennial Celebration in 1954, Eyzador won the big raffle prize, a brand new car!

Casimer and Harriette might have moved to the farm sooner, but Harriette refused to move until the farm house had indoor plumbing. So C.J. (as he was called by everyone) dynamited the frozen winter ground to install the required bathroom facilities. C.J. and Harriette had four children, Steve, Ray, Carole and John. Harriette has always been fond of saying the best crop ever raised on the farm was children.

When C.J. Died in 1981, Harriette moved to Decatur. Son Steve and his wife Karen moved to the farm, becoming the 3rd generation of Halicki's to farm the Waller farm. Their son John was born in 1986.

In addition to farming, Steve also works for Braden and Son Trucking. Karen is a very involved volunteer for Maroa activities and is a school bus driver for Maroa-Forsyth schools. Ray Halicki lives in Charlotte N.C. with his wife Sue. Their daughter Jenny,

Special awards from the Centennial, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Halicki and Lynette and Tony. They won second in "Best Dressed Family"



Three Generations- Halicki Family- Picture taken Easter of 1954
Back row left to right: Pete & Lil Halicki, Mary & Chet Halicki, Stella (Halicki) & Al Weingand, Hatti (Halicki) & Ray Lassa, Harriette & C.J. Halicki Middle row: Theresa – Chet's daughter, Rich – Stella's son, John – CJ's son, Helen and Eyzador "Pop" Halicki, Tony – Pete's son, Janet – Chet's daughter, Front row: Steve – CJ's son, Ray – CJ's son, Lynette – Pete's daughter, Margie-Chet's daughter, Carole – CJ's daughter

lived and works in Washington D.C. Ray has worked for Time Warner Company for nearly 30 years. Carole Halicki has traveled widely, her career taking her to Washington D.C., Wisconsin, Louisiana, Iowa and most recently, Palm Springs, CA. She returned to Peoria in March 2004 and is in marketing for the Par-A-Dice Hotel and Casino. John died in 1976, his wife Toni, daughter Danielle and her son Braden live in the Clinton area. Harriette, at age 85, resided in Decatur.

RALPH HANES

"Neighbors worked together back then" stated Mr. Hanes as he told his story of the days when farming was a more simple life. Back in those early days of farming, we "checked the row" – meaning the corn was planted using a check wire (which was sometimes very difficult to untangle) and the rows and plants were so even you could cultivate from either direction. The rows were straight as a gun barrel, they'd say. And the horses pulled the planter – we had a special team of horses to do the planting. And of course we had a team we felt could pull better than anyone else's. They called those teams "snatch'em teams". We even had a team with a mold board plow special for plowing our garden.

One of Mr. Hanes' favorite subjects of times past was when he would raise Angus cattle and show them at the county fairs and the Illinois State Fair. At the age of 20, he showed the Grand Champion Steer at the State Fair. And he remembers, at an earlier age, his father Elwood told him he must ride the train to Chicago with a cattle car of their cattle, see that they arrived at market and bring back the proceeds from the sale. This was quite an adventure for Ralph at such an early age. Life on the farm was very simple, they had an orchard and grapes and a garden, meaning his mother would can every fruit and vegetable they grew. His mother, Bernice had taught school. She had taught at the country school, Center Ridge, about one mile away. One of the hardships he spoke of was the very hot days in the 30's and they would go to the field at 4:00 a.m. and work for five or six hours, then quit because the horses couldn't work any longer. Ralph remembers that the price the farmer got for a bushel of corn was so cheap, they burnt the corn for fuel.

After graduation from high school, Ralph attended the University of Illinois studying engineering, then changed his major and graduated from the U. of I. with an agriculture degree in 1942. He then joined the Navy and spent 3 ½ years on the west coast and near the equator. He met his wife, Gene, and they were married in 1945. After his discharge, he came back home to the farm and began farming with a team of horses - one of his implements was a pull-type picker (the hand-picking of corn was a thing of the past). He farmed about 400 acres and continued to show cattle in the summer. For some time, the corn, still on the ear was taken by wagon to the Emery elevator to be shelled, then taken back home to be fed to the livestock. (By the way, did you know there used to be a grocery store at Emery?) Those were the days of threshing machines, wheat and oats were two of the main crops besides corn - not many soybeans at that time. Neighbors worked together on such things as threshing and butchering. Ralph remembers that hauling and spreading the manure was one of the worst jobs on the farm. In 1945 he and his father switched to tractors with steel wheels.

Wedding picture of Ralph and Gene Hanes in 1945.

In 1951 or 52, Ralph bought his first tractor – a John Deere – at Heman, Il. So the 50's were the years of a big turning point in the lives of the farmers. The teams of horses began to disappear and there was a transformation for the business of farming. The corn sheller was another great invention. In the winter, the cribbed corn would be shelled and the farmer would haul it to the elevator in wagons. Then the grain trucks came into being and hauling the grain was much faster. Of course progress brought us much bigger and more efficient machinery (and quite more expensive) and the time of farming back in the 50's seems very simple compared to now.

At present, their son Richard is farming where his father once farmed, their daughter Jane lives on the home place where Ralph was raised and their daughter Diane lives on the west coast. Gene and Ralph will be married 60 years next year and they are very thankful for the good life God has blessed them with and the fact they could raise their family on the farm.

Ralph and Elwood Hanes with a show calf. They sold may show quality Angus cows and calves. At one Central Illinois Aberdeen-Angus sale at the Simon E. Lantz farm, they sold a cow for $1,000 and her calf for $500. They secured the start of their herd at Maroa back in the depression days by buying this cow's mother at the Lantz farm for $150. This picture is form the 1940's.

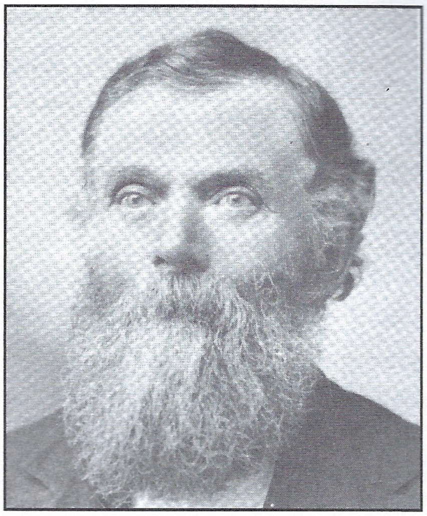
Diane graduated from Maroa High School and Millikin University in Nursing. She married Marshall Herbert England of Warrensburg. She has two children— Mary Elizabeth and Trey (Marshall Herbert III). They live and work near Portland, Oregon.

Richard graduated from Maroa-Forsyth High School and the University of Illinois in Agriculture Economics and lives on the farm where Ralph and Gene lived until moving to Maroa in 1978. Richard married Cinda Lu Snell, graduate of the University of Illinois, and she teaches Kindergarten in the Maroa-Forsyth school district. They have two children— Adam Arthur and Andrew Philip. Adam married Jill Wilkinson of Canton, Illinois, and he is a graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University and received his Masters degree in Physical Therapy from Bradley University. Jill is an Illinois Wesleyan graduate with a degree in Nursing. Adam and Jill have one son, Drew Curtis, and they live in Decatur, Illinois. Andrew graduated from Maroa-Forsyth High School and Illinois State University in Computer Sciences. He works and resides in Champaign-Urbana. He will marry Lindsey Fisher from Washington, Illinois, in July 2004.

Jane graduated from Maroa-Forsyth High School and attended Eastern Illinois University. She is married to Donald Queary of Decatur. She and Don both work for Tate and Lyle in Decatur and reside in rural Maroa. She has two children, Kristen Nicole and Brett Eugene. Kristen graduated from Maroa-Forsyth High School and the University of Illinois in Dietetics and works in sales for a prescription drug company. She married Derek Evans of Decatur and has two sons, Brock Michael and Cole Daniel. Brett graduated from Maroa-Forsyth schools and Southern Illinois University and works for Decatur Memorial Hospital.

GEORGE LIENHART FAMILY

George Lienhart (1831-1923) was born near Strasbourg, Alsace Lorraine District, Germany. He came to the United States in 1848 when he was 17 years old. He worked as a shoe cobbler in New York City. He met the Rothermel family and came to Sangamon County, Illinois. In 1852 he married Margaret Rothermel (1828-1878) in Sangamon County, Illinois. Later they moved to Macon County near Maroa, Illinois.



George Lienhart born in Strasbourg Alsace Lorraine District, Germany. He came to the United States when he was 17 in 1848. He did not know any English when he came here. He married Margaret Rothermel and they had the following children: George H., Lewis, Margaret, and John.

Margaret was born near Darmstadt, Germany. They had four children: George H, Lewis, Margaret, and John. George and Margaret and their children-George H., Margaret, and John are all buried in Maroa Cemetery. Descendants of this couple are in the Maroa area. Land that belonged to George Lienhart was a Centennial farm in 1994. It is still owned by descendants of George Lienhart.

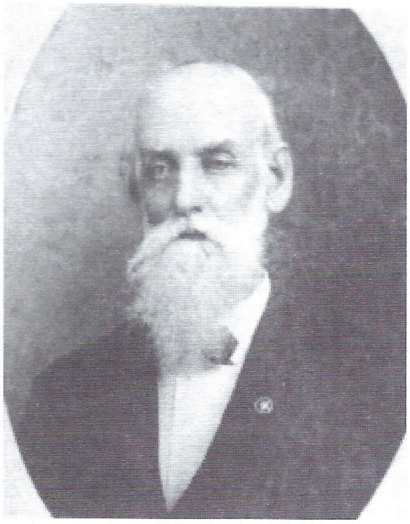
JOHN LONGSTREET

John Longstreet was of Scotch-Irish ancestry. His grandfather settled in New Jersey. Aaron Longstreet, John's father, was born there. The family moved to Ohio. John Longstreet was born in Butler County, Ohio on September 2,1832. He married Vashti Wycoff and came to Maroa in the spring of 1862 where they purchased farm land. He built a home in the east part of town in 1886.

Mr. Longstreet served five consecutive terms as Maroa Supervisor, two terms as Highway Commissioner, 20 years on the school board, and was a member of the City Council for a number of years. He helped organize the Citizens Bank of Maroa and later became a stockholder in the First National Bank of Maroa, when that in titution succeeded the Citizens Bank. He was prominently identified with the social and business life of the community until his death on October 28,1923.

To this marriage there were seven children- Joseph, Mary Ella (Cooper). Cora Mae, Clara Belle (Parker) Grace, John, and a baby.

A great granddaughter of Clara Belle Parker is Freddonna Lazell Faulkner. Freddonna has two sons- Richard and Melbourne. Richard still lives in Maroa and has a daughter Angel Butler who has a daughter Tori Jo and a daughter Dawn Jackson who has a son Tanner. Melbourne lives in Arizona.



John Longstreet was born in Butler County, Ohio in 1832. He was a farmer there and continued farming when he came to Illinois in 1862. While still in Ohio he married Vashti Wykoff. They had seven children. Mr. Longstreet acted as Supervisor in 1876. For many years he was on the School Board. He died in 1923.

Another great granddaughter of Clara Belle Parker is Clara Marie Brenning Rodgers. She married Lowell W. Rodgers on December 24,1935. Three children were born of this union: Loreeta Dean, Lloyd Parker, and Lynn Edward. Both boys enlisted in the Air Force on completion of their high school days. Loreeta married Robert Dean Clifton and moved to the LeRoy area to farm. Upon the death of Lowell in 1970, Clara continued to farm with her son-in-law until 1975. She then moved to Farmer City, Illinois. Her family, at this time, consists of 13 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren, and 7 great, great grandchildren. She still resides in the LeRoy area.

A four generation picture of John Longstreet left, Clara Bell Parker (daughter) top center, Naomi Parker Brenning (granddaughter) right, and Freddonna Brenning (Lazell) Faulkner (great-granddaughter seated center).

A great grandson of Clara Belle Parker, Parker Brenning, married Margery Bromley. He died on January 18,1998 and his wife died on November 13,1997. They had three daughters: Sharon, Donna, and Terri.

Other descendants still living in this community are Bonnie Jean (Reiter) Hoffman, granddaughter of Mary Ella Cooper, one of her sons, Steve, and his two children. Mike and Lisa Hoffman are still residents of this community. Mike is married to Joanna and has two children.

The Albert and Katie Hensley family about 1910.

TIDBIT

Louise Gentle (McLean) Age: 108 in January 2000.

I taught school for one year at Maroa after graduating from the Lake Forest Ferry Hall Girls School. She remembers reaching in the new school at the south east corner of Main and Locust being the first one druing a fire drill to slide down the chute that was on the outside east side. The teaching job ended when she and George Gentle were married December 17, 1918, in Maroa. He was a farm advisor with the Soil

The John Kempshall Family

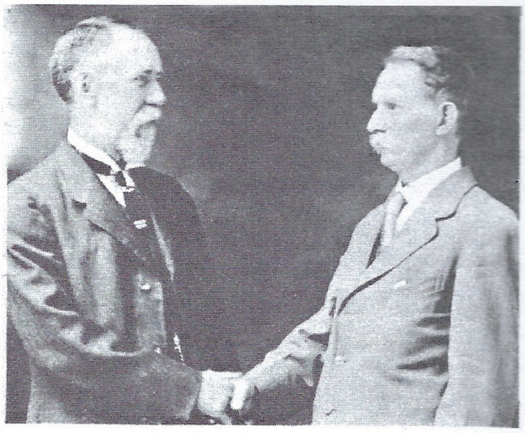
John Kempshall, Sr. was born in England on February 6, 1811. He married Eliza Haben in 1843. In the spring of 1854, they came to America with their five children: John, Charles, Eleazer, Willie and Agnes. They made the trip across the sea on the old "Henry Hudson" ship which sank on its return trip to England. They settled in Connecticut where the mother and Willie, the baby, died. Later Mr. Kempshall married Fanny Hempstock and they moved to Knoxville, Tennessee. They had four children: Albert, William, George and Edwin. During the Civil War, Mr. Kempshall made shoes for the army, having learned the trade in England. He died in 1887 in Maroa.

John Kempshall, Jr. was born in Surrey County, England. He was ten years old when his family moved to America. In June, 1862, John Kempshall, Jr., then a young man of 17, enlisted in the Confederate service. As with other families fighting in the Civil War, there were instances of father fighting against son and brother against brother, as was the case for the Kempshall family. While John served with the Confederate Army, his two brothers, Charles and Eleazer, served with the Union Army. John Kempshall was taken prisoner at Cumberland Gap on September 9, 1863 and his two brothers had a part in the capture of John's battery. After, they sought him among the prisoners and met his comrades, missed him and concluded he had been killed. Later they learned he was a prisoner.

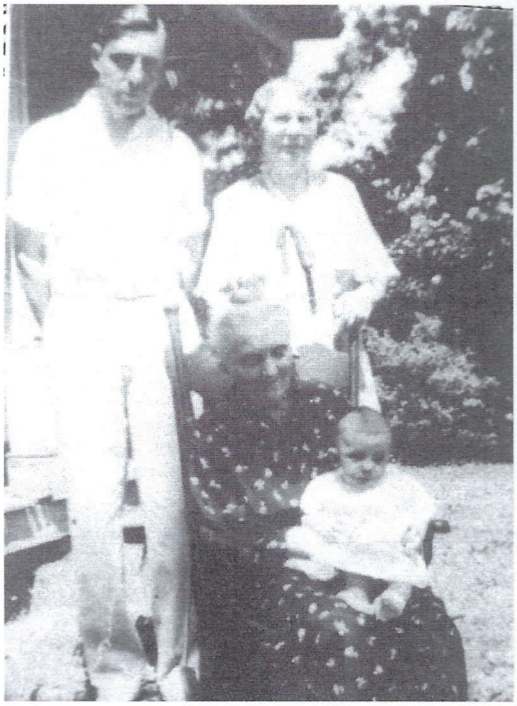
John Kempshall Jr. was paroled in March of 1865. He again joined the Southern Army. They were sent to Petersburg to try and drive back Grant's army. While there, they learned that General Lee had surrendered.

After the war, John Kempshall settled in Maroa in 1866 where he started the first shoe shop. In June of 1870 he married Ruberta Balk, daughter of Benjamin and Harriet Ball. Their four children were Agnes, Minnie, W. Lee and Bernice. Mr. Kempshall, Jr. was a highly respected business man and citizen of Maroa, serving as town clerk for several years. Mr. Kempshall died in 1923 at the age of 78.

His wife Ruberta was one of nine children, lived in Maroa from the age of seven until her death in 1945 at the age of 96. She was survived by her children, three grandchildren: Homer Kirchhoff, Wayne Kempshall and Ruberta Grady; and two great-grandchildren: Sandra Lee Kirchhoff and Ann Kempshall. Mrs. Ruberta Kempshall attended school in the first schoolhouse built in Maroa and often told of the speech by President Abraham Lincoln in Clinton in July, 1858.

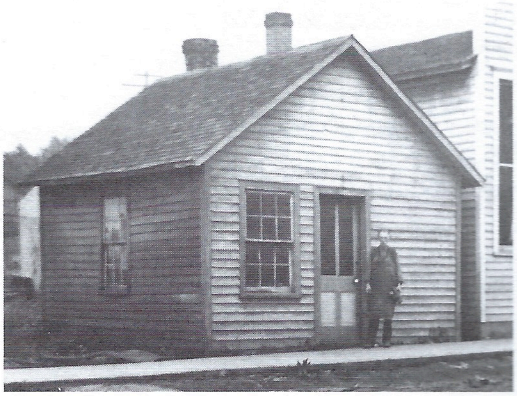


Charles Kempshall, left, Union veteran of hartford, Connecticut meets his brother, John Kempshall of Maroa, formerly with the Southern forces. This was the second meeting of the brothers in 50 years.



Four Generations - Homer Kirchhoff and his mother Agnes Kempshall Kirchhoff standing behind his grandmother, Ruberta Balk Kempshall (wife of John Kempshall) holding Sandra Lee Kirchhoff.

(Left) Minnie Kempshall stands in front of her family home on North Wood Street in Maroa. (Above) House as it stands today, home of Jack and Barb Lamont.



Former Confederate soldier John Kempshall in front of his shoe shop on Main Street (this would approximately be just east of the Post Office today)

LINVILLE FAMILY

Isaac Graham Linville

In 1906, Isaac Graham Linville, got on an interurban in Roanoke, Illinois. I do not know where he had planned to go, but while traveling south, he started talking to the conductor. He told the man that he was looking for a business to buy. I.G. Linville was a High School teacher in Roanoke, married to Kathryn Ginther. They had one daughter, Mildred who was four years old, born Jan.9,1902.

The conductor told Mr. Linville that he knew of a hardware store that was for sale in Maroa, IL. The story was told that he got off the interurban in Maroa and bought that hardware store. On August 5th of that same year, 1906, a second daughter was born in Roanoke on Kathryn's 30th birthday. This little girl was named Naomi Kathryn. I do not know if she was born before or after he bought the hardware store.

It is also told that the first child born to I.G. and Kathryn was a little boy, Charles, who died of crib death when just an infant.

Mr. Linville moved his wife and two daughters to Maroa, IL and Linville Hardware became a reality. I wonder how much I.G. knew about running a hardware store. Most men love hardware stores so he probably learned quickly. I've always heard that he was a very intelligent man and a good business man.

Kathryn Ginther was bom in New Holland, IL. on August 5, 1906 to Caroline Stauder Ginther and William Ginther. The only thing I've ever heard about Grandmother Ginther was that Naomi and Mildred said that she sat in her rocking chair with a black shawl around her shoulders and didn't seem to be very well. Caroline was born in 1850 and died in 1918.

Kathryn had one sister, Bessie, born in 1886 and died in 1962. She was married to Floyd Wendell. They lived in New Holland, IL and had two sons, William and Ohmart. William was married to Lucille and they had two daughters, Kaye and Joy. Ohmart was married to Margaret. They did not have children.

Another brother, George, bom in 1877, married to Edna, bom in 1884. They had a daughter Mary Caroline (called Cherry). Ten years later in 1916, they had twin daughters, Garnet and Gretchen. Garnet is married to Bob Daylrmple and Gretchen was married to Al Swanson.

Brother Ed, bom in 1884 and died in 1950, first wife was Ellen Dúnn, later married Marguuerite DeHass- no children in eiither marriage.

Harry Ginther (called Hi) was married Myrtle and they lived on a farm in Mason City, I11. Harry was bom in 1883, died in 1960, Myrtle, bom, 1892, died in 1987. No children.

Isaac Graham Linville was bom in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1866. He had an identical twin brother who was a judge in Elk City, Oklahoma. It is told that one time, I.G. went to Oklahoma to visit his brother and stopped and asked a man if he knew where Judge Linville lived. The man said "Oh Judge, you knows where you lives!" Remember they were identical twins.

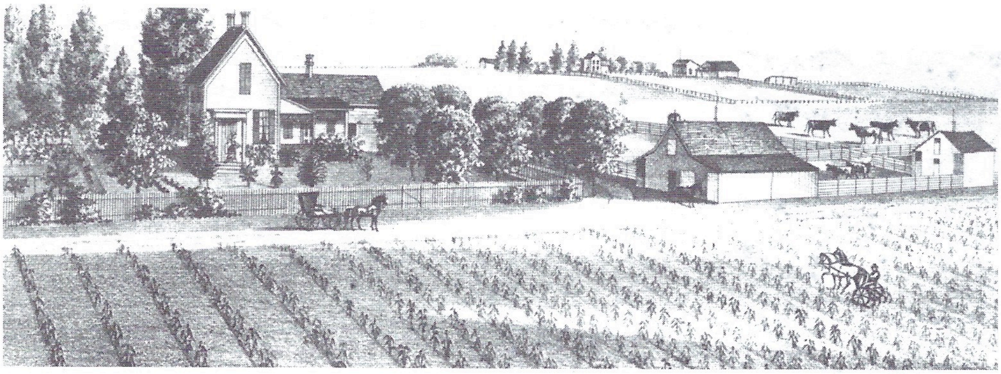
I.G. Linville and Kathryn Ginther were married, June 24,1893 in New Holland, IL. Most of their married life was spent in Maroa, IL. They were members of the Maroa Presbyterian Chuch. Mr Linville taught Sunday School for many years. His grandson, Bennie, says that his most vivid memory of Grandad Linvile was that on Sunday afternoons, he sat in a big chair in the dining room window, reading his Bible. It is said that he taught Naomi to drive when she was eleven years old so that she could take her mother to the places she needed to be. Mr. Linville passed away on August 19, 1938 and is buried in New Richmond Grove Cemetery, New Holland, IL.

I.G. and Kathryn's oldest daughter, Mildred taught school in Argenta, IL. She met and married Ray Bone of Argenta, in 1925. They lived in Decatur, IL. and had several neighborhood grocery stores. They had three living children. Their firstborn, a daughter, Shirley, died of crib death, when only two months old.

Richard Linville Bone, bom, Nov.30,1926,, married to Joyce Moore on Oct. 19,1948. They have two boys. Richard,(Rick) living in Montrovia, California, and James Randal (Randy) married to Rita, living in Indian Harbor Beach, Fla. They have three children, C.J., Jeffrey, and Elizabeth (Betsy).

Mildred and Ray's second child, Bonnie Patricia (Patty) married to William (Bill) Bertsch live in Bellville, IL. They have four children, Steve married to Donna. They have two children, Jason and Julie and live in Decatur, IL. They have a daughter, Vickie, married to Steve Bendix,with a family of three boys, Drew, Joey and Kyle. A second daughter, Wendy, lives in Belleville. Another son, David, married to Denise, living in Bellville with one son.

The youngest son, Robert G. Bone, married to Darlene Walker, lives in Fillmore, IL. They have four children, Russell Ray, Ronald, Kathy Brownlee with a son Lucas, and Patty Procaroni, married to Craig, with three children,Heather, Tyler, and Tad, living in rural Maroa.



Ralph Reynolds, grandson of George B. Short, owns and lives on the farm where this house stood. He replaced the house. It is located in sec 36, one half-mile east and one half-mile south of Emery.

Naomi Myers passed away Sept. 13,1989, buried in Maroa Cemetery
One dauughter, Savannah Clair, born April 21, 1995

Lisa, married to James. E.Peck , June 2, 1984
One son, James Bernard, born, Jan 19, 1987
One son, Jordan Michael, born, April 3, 1990
One daughter, Linda Kelleen, born, August, 25,1991

I.G. and Kathryn's second daughter, was Naomi Kathryn, moved to Maroa, IL. in 1906, when just a baby. She attended grade school and graduated from Maroa High School in 1924, Salutatorian of her graduating class. She attended Milliken University in Decatur IL. for two years, earned a teaching certificate, which she never used. She did secretarial work in the Maroa and Forsyth area for many years. She met Bernard Irvin Myers, son of Bert and Henrietta Fredericks Trommel of rural Maroa. Bernard was born, Nov. 16,1903. Bert's birthday was Aug. 4, 1876 and Etta was born Sept. 17,1875. Naomi and Bernard were married Sept. 5th, 1925. They lived in St. Louis for two years, where Bernard worked for Shapleigh Hardware Co. They moved back to Maroa where their only child, a son, was born Oct. 12,1927.He was named Bernard Linville and weighed 10lbs. and 13 oz. Bernard Sr. worked for his father-in-law at Linville Hardware Company. Bernard Sr. and his son, were both called Bennie. Most people said "Big Ben" and "Little Ben".

Son, Bennie attended schools in Maroa, graduating from High School in 1945. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and left for Great Lakes Naval Training Base in June, 1945, shortly after graduating from High School. When he finished Boot Camp, World War II ended in the summer of 1945. Bennie stayed on at Great Lakes and worked in the separation center, up-dating records for men and women that were returning home from overseas. He was then sent to Camp Shumaker in Oakland, California, awaiting reassignment. He was sent to San Deigo, to a Naval Destroyer Base. Bennie remained in San Deigo working on destroyer ships returning from battles in the South Pacific. He was discharged after 18 months of duty and returned home in August, 1946. He started dating Wanda Rodgers. He worked for several months with his Dad at Linville Hardware Co and then enrolled at Coyne Electronics School in Chicago, IL. for six months of training. After returning home, he continued working for Linville Hardware Company. He and Wanda Rodgers were married in the Maroa Methodist Church on March 20, 1946.

Henrietta Myers passed away, March 26,1954, buried in Maroa Cemetery.
Bert Myers, passed away 1961 buried in Maroa Cemetery
Bernard I. Myers passed away Sept. 21,1973, buried in Maroa Cemetery

Kimberly Jill, married to Richard FoxIII November 19,1989
One daughter, Caroline Linville,born, Dec. 16,1991
One son, Jonathon (Jack) Graham ,born,October 30,1995
One son, Griffin Prescott, born, August 20,1997

Bernard (Bennie) owned and operated Linville Hardware Store, Myers Plumbing and Heating, is presently a Rural Mail Carrier for the Maroa U.S.Post Office.

Wanda worked as secretary for Sanks Insurance Agency, Decatur Housing Authority (Rent Control) Phillips Petroleum of Forsyth, Dr. W.L. Terrell, Linville Hardware, retired as Jr. High Secretary for Maroa/ Forsyth Schools.

Effie Rodgers passed away Nov. 5,1947 Geroge Rodgers passed away, December 30,1959. They are buried in the Maroa Cemetery. Lowell Rodgers passed away, October 9,1970. He is buried in the Maroa Cemetery. Carmen Rodgers Gourley passed away Dec.6,1975 in Arlington, Va. She is buried in Des. Moines, Iowa. Alvin Eugene Gourley, passed away May 5,1976 in Tokyo, Japan while working as an Agricultural Attache to Japan. He was brought back to the United States and buried in Des Moines, Iowa. Lloyd Parker Rodgers, oldest son of Lowell passed away in Maroa, IL. Sept.27,2003 and is buried in Maroa Illinois.

Written by Wanda Rodgers Myers, May 2004 for the Sesquicentennial Celebration Yearbook

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THE CHARLES MARSH FAMILY OF MAROA

Submitted by his daughter, Joan Amacher

John Marsh - 1890

Special awards from the Centennial, Mary Ellen Marsh won first in "Best Dressed Pre-School Girl"

There are six generations of Marshes buried in the Maroa Cemetery, starting with John Marsh, whose grandfather emigrated to the United States from Ireland in 1810. The family came to Illinois in 1850 and to Macon County soon after. The seventh generation is still living in the Maroa community at this time; Tyler, Brandon, and Cody Marsh, who are the sons of Rob and Becky Marsh. It is interesting to note that the Marsh boys attend the Maroa Schools (now Maroa-Forsyth), of which John Marsh was one of the first board members in 1867.

John and Henrietta Sherman Marsh (m. 1844) parented four children that grew to be adults: Alfred, John, Jesse and William. William and Emma Weddle Marsh became the parents of Frank, Grace (Conn), Walter, Bess (Westerman), John, and Charles. Charles and Vilena Augustus Marsh (m. 1916) parented Helen (Walters), Corwin, Normaline (Monts), Joan (Amacher), and Evelyn June (Hoffman). Corwin and Betty Hanes (daughter of H. Russell and Fleta Wikoff Hanes) Marsh (m. 1941) became the parents of Alan, Sally (Honnold), H. Daniel, and Mary (Smith). Alan and Loretta Cooper Marsh (m. 1966) parented Robert and Michelle. H. Daniel and Kathy Miller Marsh (m. 1973) became the parents of Nathan and Tara. Robert and Rebecca Mattingly Marsh (m. 1991) parented Alan Tyler, Brandon, and Cody.

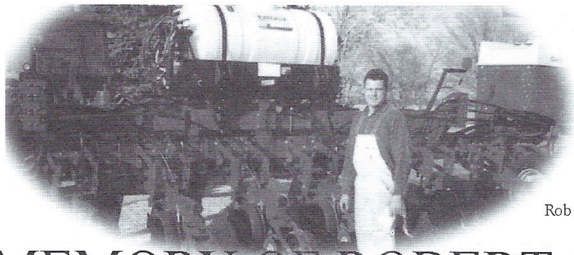
Family history speaks of the first John Marsh, who was a pump maker. He made his pumps by hand by boring out logs. He is reputed to have built a pump for Abraham Lincoln at his Springfield residence, as well as some of the public pumps used in Springfield during that time period. John was in the livestock business in the Maroa area and owned farmland east of town. He passed the farm legacy on through his sons and grandsons, and from then on some of the Marsh family have been farmers in the Maroa area. Charles, Corwin, Alan, Dan, and Robert Marsh, along with their wives and children, have carried on this farming tradition to the present day. Dan and Kathy Marsh are currently farming and living southwest of Maroa.

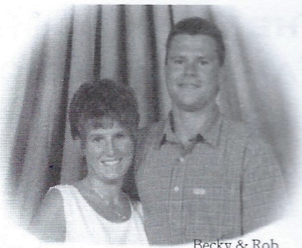
One of the family's favorite stories is of the time Charles Marsh and his friend decided to have a race between the friend on his "new fangled" bicycle and Charlie on his horse. It seems that some gravel on the road caused both of them some trouble, and nobody won the race after all. On another occasion, when Charlie and Vilena were courting in a horse and buggy near Weldon Springs, a wildcat dropped out of an overhanging tree and onto the horse's back. The wildcat fell off without doing too much damage, but the resulting ride was a very wild one for the young couple.

When Charlie was 89 years old and his health was beginning to fail, he enjoyed driving through the countryside looking at the fields—any season would do. During the winter, he and one of his daughters drove into a rural area where there was a creek, which had frozen and thawed with the water moving very fast. Charlie said, "Go ahead and ford the creek", but the daughter was too timid to try it. Charlie urged her on and just as she decided to drive across, the front wheels of the car fell through the ice. They were trapped. The rear wheels just spun and the car didn't move. The nearest house was two miles away and Charlie was becoming impatient with the whole situation. His daughter, knowing he would never sit too long in the car without doing something about the problem, used her Marsh pioneer spirit and got out of the car to look for something to put under the back wheels to gain some traction. She chipped two jackets out of the ice and that did the trick. It seems some other people had experienced the same problem, and the ride in the country became an adventure to remember.

Maroa is a huge part of the Marsh Family memories and legacy today because other descendants of John Marsh are also in the community. There are numerous cousins, aunts, and uncles living here. Normaline Marsh Monts, Dan and Kathy Marsh, Becky, Tyler, Brandon and Cody Marsh and the families of Bess Marsh Westerman are still working and living in and around Maroa. The family hopes that there will always be a Marsh descendant living in or near this town, which has been such an important part of their family history. May Maroa expand and prosper, and continue to celebrate the heritage of all the families that have been a part of its history and its future.

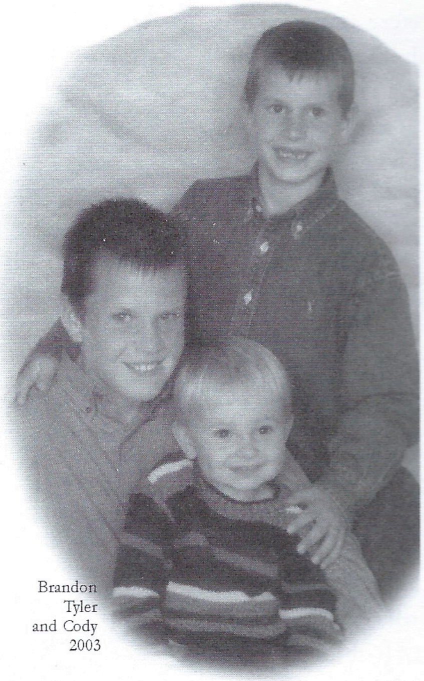
Rob & Becky 1991


Rob 2000


Becky & Rob 2000

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ROBERT C. MARSH

Tyler & Rob 2000


Brandon Tyler and Cody 2003

July 13, 1968 - August 9, 2002

Husband to Rebecca "Becky" (Mattingly) Marsh
Father to Alan "Tyler" Marsh
Father to Brandon James Marsh
Father to Cody Robert Marsh

Son to Alan [deceased] & Loretta (Cooper) Marsh
Brother to Michelle "Shelly" Marsh

Son-in-law to James "Jim" & Beverly "Jo" Mattingly
Brother-in-law to James "Jamie" & Sherry Mattingly
Uncle to Ashley Mattingly
Uncle to J. D. Mattingly

Grandson to Corwin & Betty (Hanes) Marsh

Grandson to Elwood & Lorraine (Heisel) Cooper

Nephew to Dan & Kathy (Miller) Marsh
Cousin to Nathan & Karissa Marsh
Cousin to Tara Marsh

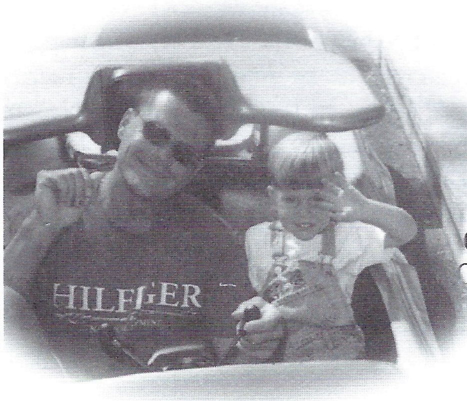
Nephew to Lyle & Sally (Marsh) Honnold
Nephew to Mary (Marsh) Smith

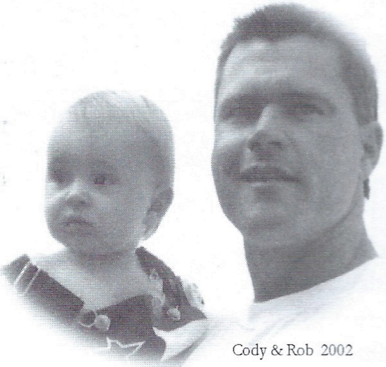
Nephew to Eddie & Sandy Cooper
Cousin to Wade Cooper (Sue Cooper, mother)
Cousin to Valerie Cooper (Sue Cooper, mother)

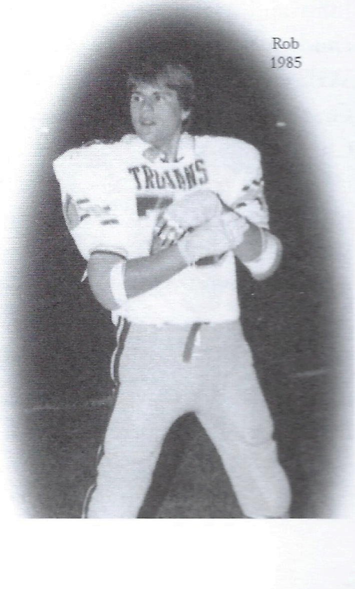
Relative to many more in the community

Farmer & Friend

WE LOVE YOU & MISS YOU


Rob & Brandon 1998


Cody & Rob 2002

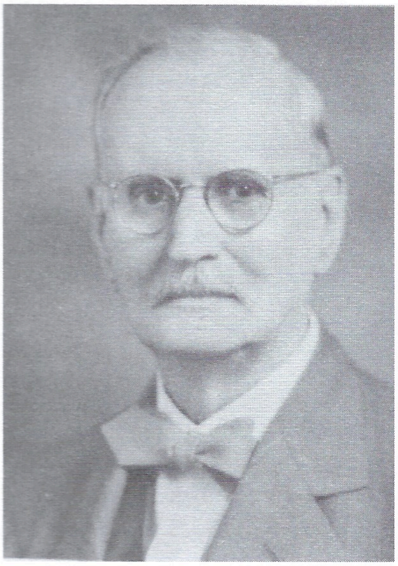

Rob 1985

Rob 1971

Tyler, Shelly, Loretta, Brandon, Cody, Rob, Becky, (L-R) 2002

McLEAN FAMILY

Chambers A. McLean was born in Fleming County, Kentucky, on May 24, 1832 the son of James A. and Charlotte McLean. He was orphaned by the time he was ten years old. In his youth he learned the trade of shoemaking and while supporting himself with this trade, he set a course of self-study and qualified himself to become a teacher. He married Lucy Ann Taylor, daughter of Charles A. and Judith (Newcomb) Taylor, on 17 June 1855 in Harrison County, Kentucky.



Dr. William Thomas McLean was born in Harrison County, Kentucky in 1858. He came to Maroa with his parents in 1865. After graduating from Rush Medical College he practiced one year in Warrensburg, and then returned to Maroa where he practiced for more than sixty years, retiring at the age of 86. His wife, Margaret, was a daughter of John H. Crocker. Dr McLean died in 1948.

Their family consisted of three boys and one girl. Two of the boys died as youths in Kentucky. The daughter, Sabina, was born in Harrison County, Kentucky, on 27 April 1856. The one son, William T. McLean was born in Harrison County, Kentucky, on 31 July 1858. He taught school in Kentucky until 1865 when he moved his family to Maroa, Illinois

He continued his teaching in Maroa and was the first principal of the Maroa Public School, being appointed in 1867 at a salary of $60 per month. Teaching gave him the opportunity to continue studying and pursue his ambition, the field of medicine.

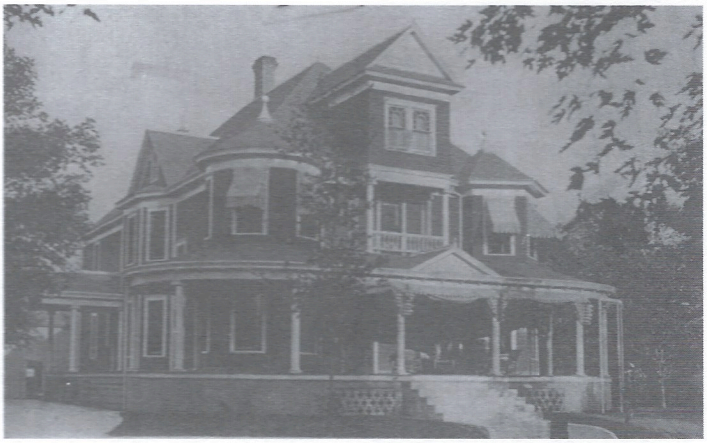
A son and daughter were born in the years following their move to Maroa. The son died as an infant while the daughter, Mabel Clare, born on 30 September 1870 lived in Maroa and then Decatur after her marriage to Harry P. Bachman on 4 November 1895.

Chambers McLean graduated from the Eclectic Medical College in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1870. He began his practice of medicine in Maroa until he moved to Decatur in 1884 where he continued his practice almost until his death on 16 September 1920 in Decatur, Illinois, just four days after the death of his wife.

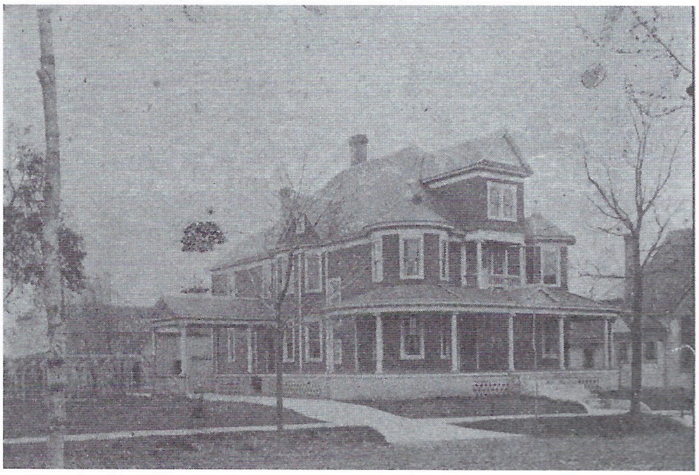
William T. McLean attended public schools in Maroa. He then spent one year at the University of Illinois at Urbana. He then attended Rush Medical College in Chicago, Illinois, where he graduated on 22 February 1881. He continued his medical

A 50th anniversary picture of Dr. William Thomas McLean and Margaret Philbrook (Crocker) McLean. Taken in 1935 in the north side of 124 S. Walnut where the current house of 116 South Walnut Street now stands.

A 60th anniversary picture taken December 17, 1978 of George and Louise Gentle at their son, Bob's house at 402 West Washington in Maroa. Standing left to right are: Bob Gentle, Dorothy Ellinwood, Paul Gentle, and Mary Holtsclaw.



The McLean Home Dr McLean practiced medicine in Maroa for sixty years, retiring at the age of 86. Located on South Walnut Street. photo courtesy of M&M Café at 119 West Main



Dr. W. T. McLean's home on 124 South Walnut Street. A residence in the First Class. Virtually New and the Largest in the City (in 1910). Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.

education for the next four years. On 16 June 1885 he married Margaret Philbrook Crocker.

Margaret Crocker was third of seven children born to John H. and Louisa Viola Crocker. She was born in Birds Point, Missouri, on 5 January 1861. She moved with her parents to Maroa as a child. She attended Maroa Public Schools and later attended Miss Bang's School for Girls in Connecticut.

After graduating from Rush Medical College William McLean settled in Maroa at the urging of his father. Except for a ten-month period in Warrensburg, Illinois, his entire medical career was spent practicing in Maroa. In 1884 he was appointed local surgeon for the Illinois Central Railroad, a position he held for over 50 years. He was also local surgeon for the Illinois Traction Company, an electric railroad that also served Maroa. William formed a partnership with a Dr. Morgan in March 1890. He served as mayor of Maroa from 1895 to 1899 as well as serving many years on the school board.

William and Margaret raised a family of four children: John Crocker born 2 September 1886; Franklin Chambers born 29 February 1888; Edwin Philbrook born 28 May 1890; and Anna Louise born 26 January 1892.

Margaret found time during the raising of her children to be one of two women elected to the Maroa Board of Education in the spring of 1900.

The four McLean children graduated from Maroa High School with John attending and graduating from University of Illinois, Franklin and Edwin both attending and graduating from Rush Medical College. Franklin continued his education in Chicago where he lived while working at the University of Chicago Medical School. Edwin practiced medicine with his father until moving to Decatur to start his own practice. Louise attended Ferry Hall, a Presbyterian girls college, in Lake Forest, Illinois. Louise taught school in the Maroa Public School in 1915-16 and then in 1917-18. Except for the first 24 years of marriage, she lived all of her 108 years in the same location in Maroa, on the east side of the 100 block of South Walnut Street, but in three different houses.

Louise married George Gentle of Farmington, Illinois on 17 December 1918. They celebrated sixty-five years of marriage. They had four children. Paul born on 21 April 1923 in Rushville, Illinois; Mary born on 1 March 1926 in Rushville, Illinois; Dorothy born on 25 December 1930 in Decatur; Illinois and Robert born on 14 August 1933 in Decatur, Illinois.

The three oldest children attended college, married and live in St. Louis, Indianapolis and Albany respectively. Robert has lived in Maroa since 1943 when his parents moved to Maroa where they lived in the McLean residence with Dr. McLean.

Robert graduated from Maroa Forsyth Community High School then later graduated from Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. He married Marilyn Hadsall of Witt, Illinois. They moved to Maroa after living a few months in Decatur.

Their children, all born in Decatur, Illinois, were Brenda born on 5 August 1961, Deborah born on 2 May 1963, James born on 8 December 1964, Rita born on 29 July 1970 and Michael born on 21 September 1975. Brenda continues to live in Maroa with the other children living in California, Connecticut and Illinois.
Written by Robert Gentle December 2003

Congratulations, Maroa on your 150th!
The Bob Gentle Family
And
In Loving Memory of
George and Louise Gentle
Who were so proud of their Hometown
Maroa, Illinois

MEMOIRS OF LOUISE MCLEAN GENTLE

(These memoirs were written on four different occasions between 1976 and 1980 for different reasons. Because of this, there was some duplication of information. I have eliminated the duplications and re-arranged them somewhat in what I hope is a logical order. The headings are mine as are the comments and additions in .)

I am Louise McLean Gentle. I was born in Maroa, Illinois in 1892 and, except for the first 24 years of my married life, I have lived in the same location on South Walnut Street, although not in the same house, all of those years.
My mother was Margaret Crocker McLean, daughter of John H. Crocker and granddaughter of John Crocker, the first station agent here for the Illinois Central Railroad.

My father was Dr. William T. McLean, son of C.A. McLean who came to Maroa as a schoolteacher and later became a physician.

My Ancestors

John Crocker, with whom I start this story, was the third of eight generations of John Crockers. He was the eighth of nine children born to John and Mary Choate Crocker. He was born 2 August 1804, in Derry, New Hampshire. At the age of 24 he married Mary N. Pilsbury and eleven years later they brought their family of three sons west to Jacksonville, Illinois.

The Illinois Central Railroad was completed thru Maroa Township in 1854. The Town of Maroa was laid out and the depot built that year. John Crocker was the first station agent and the family occupied living quarters in the depot. He was an enterprising and civic-minded man and did many things for the development of the town. He was the first postmaster (1855), the first lumber and grain merchant and he founded the Presbyterian Church.

When Maroa was about ten years old, John H. Crocker brought his family here and lived for awhile with his parents in the depot. He was born in New Hampshire in 1829 and lived as a child in Jacksonville, Illinois. He became a Civil Engineer in General Grant's staff of Engineers during the early years of the Civil War. He married Louisa Philbrook in 1855 in Vandalia, Illinois, and they had three children when they moved to Maroa. He joined his father in the lumber and grain business. In 1867 they organized a private bank and carried on the business until 1875 in a corner of their grain and lumber office. The bank grew and changes were made but there was a Crocker and Company Bank until 1932.

John H. Crocker built a beautiful home a block south of the depot and lived there until his death in 1890. It was the family home until Mrs. Crocker's death in 1922.

About the time that John H. Crocker came to Maroa, another family came from Fleming County, Kentucky. C.A. McLean, born 1838, and his wife, Lucy Ann, came with their two children. Mr. McLean taught school two and a half miles west of Maroa. Later he was elected Principal of the Maroa Public School. In this capacity he introduced the system of dividing the school into grades, which was a big step forward. Leaving the field of Education he went to Cincinnati, Ohio, to Medical School. Upon graduation he came back home and practiced medicine. This continued until his son, William T. McLean, graduated from Rush Medical College in Chicago. William started his practice in 1884 and his father moved to Decatur to practice.

These two families are my ancestors. They lived here and worked with other families to develop the town, which by 1900 had a population of a little over 1000 people.

Early Maroa

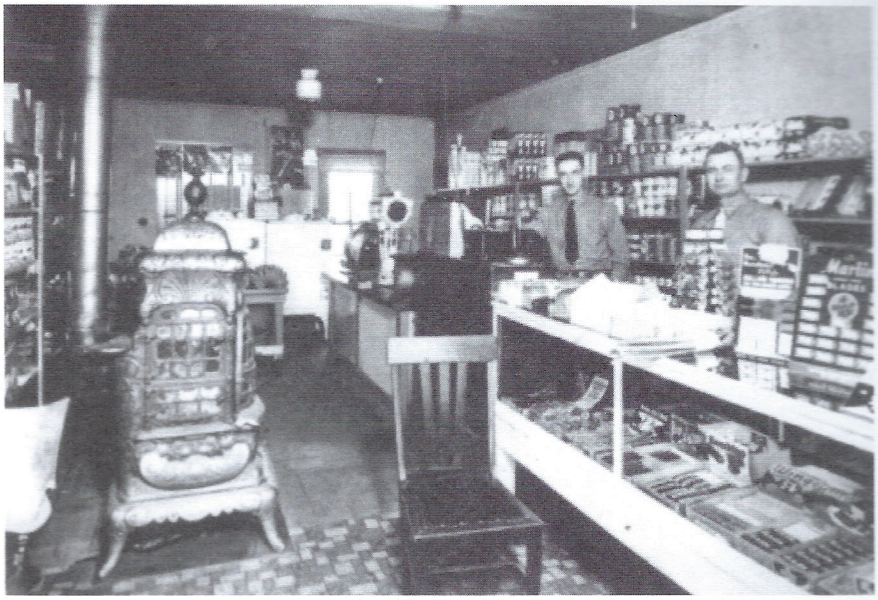
In my early years we had several grocery stores, two clothing stores, two drug and jewelry stores, a bakery, blacksmith shops, cigar factory, creamery, photograph gallery, Opera House, three hotels and two milliner shops (where hats could be made to order).

I have a Maroa Weekly News dated 7 September 1872, which advertises for some of the businessmen.

Louise (McLean) Gentle born Jan 26, 1892 Maroa's oldest citizen when she died in 2001
photo courtesy of M&M Café at 119 West Main

Crocker & Co.
Maroa Grain Elevator
Wallace Hotel
C.A. McLean - Eclectic Physician and Surgeon
Office - Over Rogers and Collins Store
Residence - Fifth door south of School House
L. Tozer - M.D. Physician and Surgeon
Office - Over Thomas & Bros.' Store
Thomas and Bros. - Dealers in Family Groceries
Fornof & Kent - Blacksmithing
Carriage and wagon making
Gleason's Art Gallery - Over the Post Office
Smith Bros. - Groceries, glass, cutlery, etc.
Thayer & Milmine - Boots, shoes and hats
Garret J. Schenck - Candy, fruit, nuts, tobacco, cigars, oysters, soda water, meals, ice-cream
T.S. Johnson - Pianos
J.H. Clough - furniture, coffins lined and ready for immediate use
Maroa Weekly News dated 10 May 1901

LG. Sterling - Graduate Optician
Fred Vahernhold - Fresh and cured meat
L. Camp - Dealer in practically everything in leather
F.H. Barr- Veterinarian
Bradley Dry Goods Co.
W.A. Wicoff- Bicycles, stoves furniture
Coffman & Warwick - Groceries
Hill Bros.- Dry Goods
Conover & Co. - Hats, shoes, neckwear

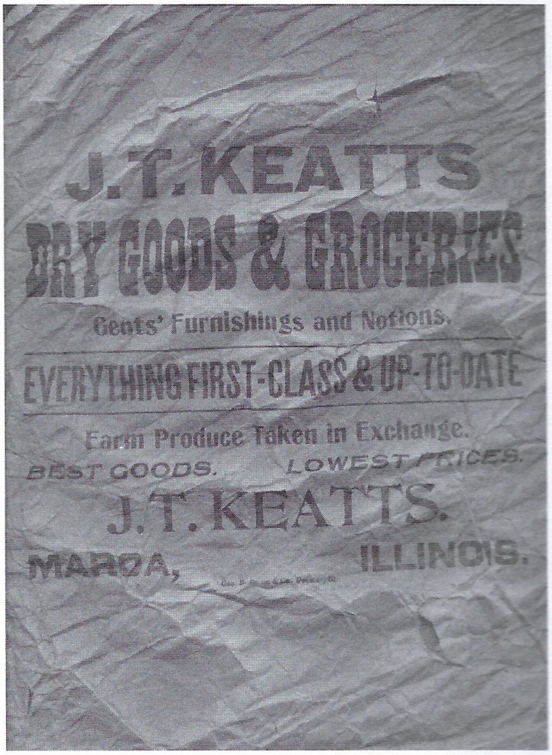


Jack Shields, left and Dewey Bunner take care of all your market needs in 1936. Jack died during WWII. Photo courtesy

When the Illinois Traction System built its line through here in 1905, and interurbans were running every hour, it was so convenient to go to Decatur to shop that many of the merchants gradually lost their trade and were forced to close. Forty-eight years later the interurban made its last run, having been replaced by the automobile.

When salesmen came to town they stayed in the hotels, usually overnight. Also, quite a few single men lived in the hotels. Each hotel had a dining room so there were more eating places than we have now. The hotels were; the Columbia, on the corner south of the United Methodist Church, the Schenck (pronounced Skank) House on the south west corner of Main and Walnut and Central Hotel on the west side of Walnut, 1/2 block south of Main. There was also the Grady Rooming House on the site of the United Methodist Church.

The block where I live (now) has changed almost entirely since my childhood (first block of Walnut south of Main). The only building still standing is the tavern (southeast corner of Walnut and Main) which was originally a Dry Goods store. South of that was Mr. Jenkins Photograph Gallery, then a small building which was at one time Dr. Verner's Dentist Office, a small residence, our house and then the Methodist Church on the corner. On the west side of the street the Schenck House was on the Main Street corner. South of that was a saloon-restaurant-bowling alley combination. Then the old Central Hold run by Mr. Revis. Two more houses completed that block. They were both moved to make room for the present homes there.



J.T. KEATTS
DRY GOODS & GROCERIES
Gents' Furnishings and Notions.
EVERYTHING FIRST-CLASS & UP-TO-DATE
Farm Produce Taken in Exchange.
BEST GOODS. LOWEST PRICES.
J.T. KEATTS.
MAROA, ILLINOIS.

Some old tissue packing that would have been used to wrap valuables from the store. This one advertised a Maroa store. Courtesy of Larry Nix.

The first system of phones consisted of ten or twelve home-owned phones. Each phone had a dial on it and we turned a pointer to the number wanted and turned a crank to ring. There were only ten or twelve numbers on the dial.

The Maroa Fire Co. was organized in 1870 and the firehouse was built just north of the present City Hall. In 1898 the city council decided to have cages built and installed in the rear part of the firehouse for the retention of prisoners. I have a statement written by the mayor, my father, and signed by four councilmen authorizing the building for the cages. It says:

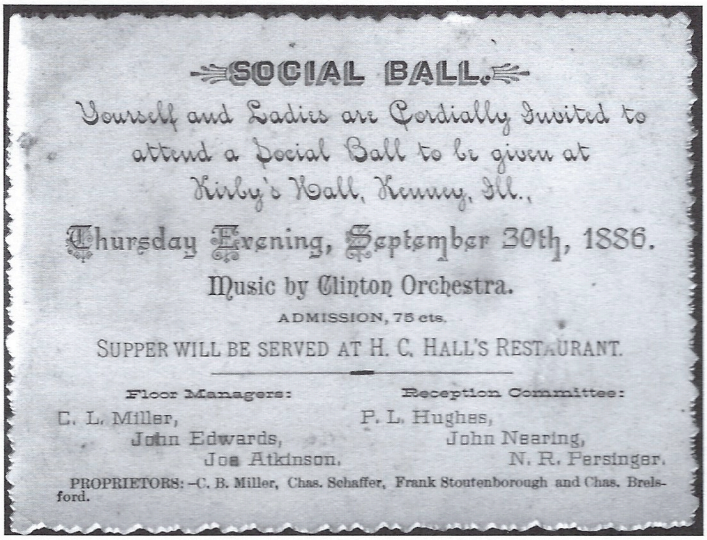
Believing that it is a necessity that the City of Maroa have a suitable place for prisoners, We, the undersigned aldermen of the City of Maroa, empower the Mayor, Marshall a committee to prepare a suitable place, by having built at the lowest cost commensurate with the necessities a suitable building for the new cages. Agreeing to ratify their action at the next Council Meeting. Signed by J.R. Megrus, C.D. Ray, C.H. Huff and Pius Huff.

Recreational Recollections

When it was not easy to go out of town for entertainment, we found many things to do here at home. During the summer band concerts were held every Thursday night on a bandstand on Main Street. It seems as if every one from town and country all around gathered in town those nights. It was a time for listening, for visiting and for walking up and down Main Street.

There was an Opera House on the second floor of the Masonic Building, which was used for concerts, home talent plays, school programs and even banquets. Road shows put on plays and our own Conover's Military Band gave winter concerts there. Many home talent plays were given there by the schools and other organizations.

One home talent entertainment filled the house to capacity. It was a Trades Display. Twenty-six ladies dressed in costumes representing different trades in the city. They filled the Hall under the command of the younger John Crocker who led them through a beautiful drill. The dresses were all fancy and beautiful. The lady from the jewelry and Drug store wore many bracelets, chains and pins. She wore a gold crown and a girdle of small bottles "containing absolute cures for absolutely incurable diseases" and a necklace of tiny capsules. The grocery store was identified by epaulets of crackers, chewing gum and beans, and cuffs of lampshades. The harness shop had fly-net drapery front and back, panels of white rings and rosettes, waist of bridle fronts, silk walking hat and whip. The doctor's ornaments were bottles and surgical instruments. The bakery lady had a white apron and wore a loaf of bread for a hat. The cigar store was distinguished by a skirt trimmed with cigars and the firm name, a tall hat decorated with cigar boxes and advertising ten cent shaves. Other trades included a tailor, blacksmith, dry goods, banks, livery stables, hardware, millinery, confections, the elevator, the Maroa News and barbershop.



SOCIAL BALL.

Yourself and Ladies are Cordially Invited to attend a Social Ball to be given at Kirby's Hall, Kenney, Ill.,

Thursday Evening, September 30th, 1886.

Music by Clinton Orchestra.

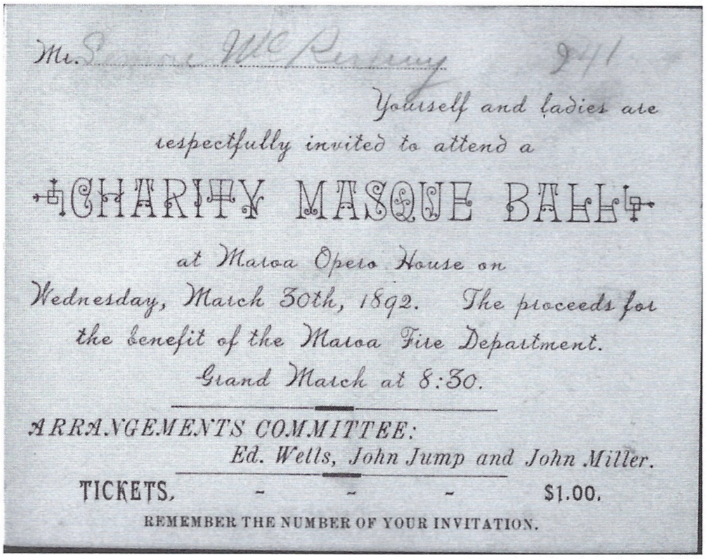
ADMISSION, 75 cts.

SUPPER WILL BE SERVED AT H. C. HALL'S RESTAURANT.

Floor Managers:	Reception Committee:
C. L. Miller,	P. L. Hughes,
John Edwards,	John Nearing,
Joe Atkinson.	N. R. Persinger.

PROPRIETORS:–C. B. Miller, Chas. Schaffer, Frank Stoutenborough and Chas. Brelsford.

And for those who wanted to enjoy the high social life there was the social ball invitation here for September 30, 1886 in Kenney, Illinois.



Mr. Semore McRenny 941

Yourself and ladies are respectfully invited to attend a

CHARITY MASQUE BALL

at Maroa Opera House on Wednesday, March 30th, 1892. The proceeds for the benefit of the Maroa Fire Department.

Grand March at 8:30.

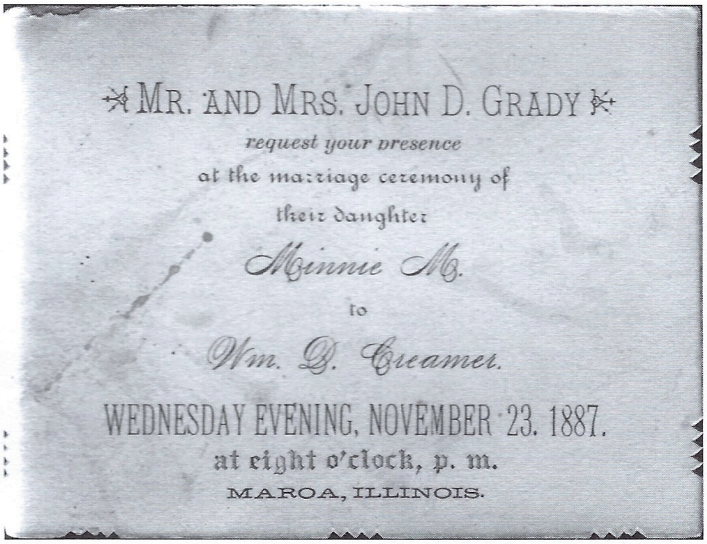
ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE:
Ed. Wells, John Jump and John Miller.

TICKETS, - - - $1.00.

REMEMBER THE NUMBER OF YOUR INVITATION.

We don't know if Mr Semore McRenny remembered his invitation number or not.

Maroa held its first Chicken Fry in our yard about 1898 or 1899. Tables were set under a big tent. A grand stand was erected and the



MR. AND MRS. JOHN D. GRADY

request your presence
at the marriage ceremony of
their daughter

Minnie M.

to

Wm. Q. Creamer.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 23. 1887.
at eight o'clock, p. m.
MAROA, ILLINOIS.

A unique piece of social history

band played during the evening - from 5:00 until 10:00. Charles and Joe Fenton fried the chicken and potato chips in large kettles and they also prepared the other food. Five hundred and sixty eight tickets were sold. So much food was left that a dinner was served the next day. The proceeds were $150.25. It was a great success.

The first alumni banquet was held in the Opera House June 1917. C.Y. Miller, Lucille Shipley and I were the Committee named to set the ball rolling. We solicited the Alum's for food and had a bountiful feast for 95 people.

One of the great joys of my childhood was visiting with my grandparents. The McLean grandparents had moved to Decatur but we saw them often. My grandmother Crocker lived only two blocks from us where I could stop on my way home from school. She had a large yard with lots of trees and shrubs, lots of flowers and a garden and even a gazebo, places to play and places to hide. She liked to play games and taught me to play cribbage and backgammon, which kept us entertained many hours.

My brothers had a pony cart and I usually managed to tag along on their jaunts around town and out into the country. Being raised in a small town was fun. We knew almost everyone and had good times together. Summer evenings were filled with voices calling "Run-Sheep-Run" and "Every one out is in free".

In the early 1900's there was a race track on the east side of the Bloomington Rd. (Route 51) just south of town. I do not remember the races, but the track was a nice place to go driving. That is where I had my first automobile ride. I had driven our pony out there and Mr. Martin Hitt and his young son were driving one of the first cars in town. I traded a pony cart ride for a spin around the track in the car.

Rural mail routes (were) established in 1901. For awhile the carriers could take passengers with them on the route. It was about a seven-hour trip - 9 to 4. I remember going the northeast route with Capt. C.F. Emery. We took our lunch and ate in the orchard at Mr. C.Y. Miller's - on a farm owned by Helen Waller. While we were there I went up into the cupola on the house with the Miller children. We could see all around the countryside.

There was a blacksmith shop in the Post Office block and the school kids liked to stop by and watch Mr. Behrer shoe horses. Another fascinating thing was the tile factory across the road from the cemetery. Tile making seemed such a mystery. Dirt was used from land adjoining the cemetery on the west. That is still a sunken spot.

E. H. Menke, Principal of the Maroa High School in 1929

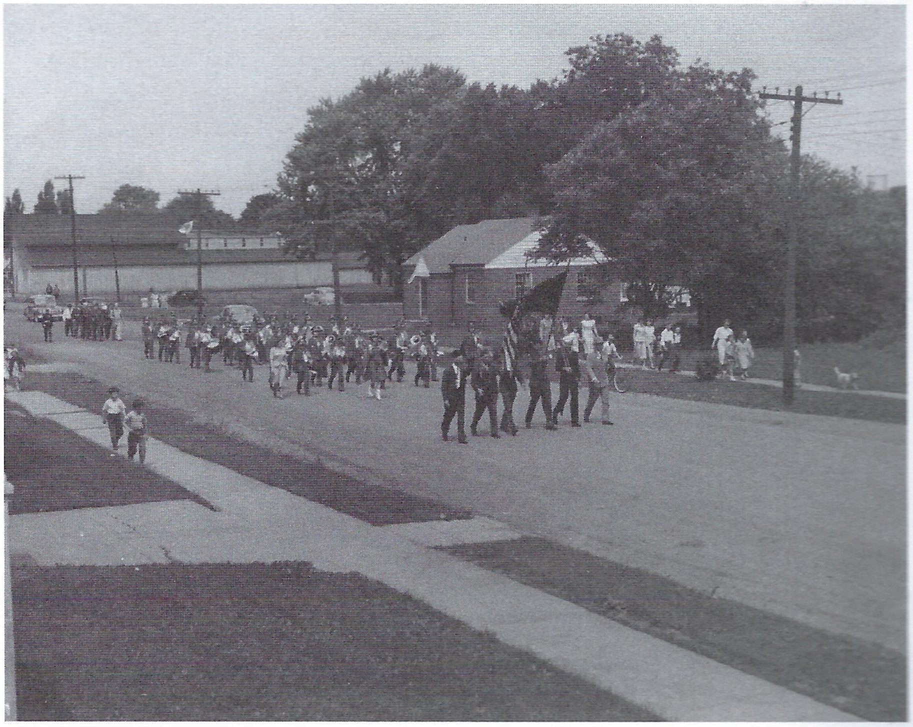
The city laid a concrete walk all the way to the cemetery. It was a fine place to go roller-skating and also a place for Sunday afternoon strolling.

At one time in the early 1900's, there was a roller skating rink where the Linville Hardware store is. Later there was a movie theater there where we watched silent pictures while Elsie Kent played appropriate music.

The Lodges (Masonic) used to have family parties and programs and they were always well attended. There were a lot of school parties in the homes and there were dances in the hall above the present grocery store. There was always something to do.

Homesteading in Idaho

I was 13 years old in 1905 when we went out to "prove up" on the Idaho land. My father went out in the spring. Two of my brothers were in college so my mother waited until June and then took the four of us children out to Idaho. We went on the train to Shoshone



Memorial Day parade in 1950. Glen Query, Charlie Creekmur and Charlie Leach were but a few in the color guard.

and drove from there to Twin Falls in an open spring wagon. It was thirty miles across the desert in the very hot sun. We were well sunburned and I had the pattern of my lace yoke burned on me. We had to drive down thru the Snake River canyon and the only pretty spot was at the Blue Lakes. As we were going up the narrow road out of the canyon, the driver told us that wagons could not pass on it. He said that one wagon had gone over the edge that summer. Maybe he said it to scare us, I'm not sure, but he did scare at least one of his passengers.

Twin Falls was just a few store buildings that summer. We went from there out to our place, following an old trail that was rough and deep in dust. When we arrived I'm sure that my mother must have thought we had reached the end of the earth. Our "home" was a one-room shack with a tent attached. The shack was the living room, kitchen and parent's bedroom. The tent was divided into three rooms; a little room for me, a larger one for the three boys and a dining room.

I don't know where the furniture came from but we took kitchenware, dishes and both table and bed linens with us. We didn't know much about camping and less about Idaho. A linen tablecloth was hardly suitable for that place at that time. We should have had oil cloth table covers. It wasn't unusual to get a meal on the table just as the wind began to blow. And could that wreck a good dinner! There were no screens and flies were bad, too.

We had a tub and a washboard and did the washing outside in the shade of the shack. The water was carried from a draw over by Mr. Angel's house, now Mary Wilson's.

After the sagebrush was grubbed out, the fields were made ready for irrigating. It was especially difficult that year because the dust was so deep. Until it was thoroughly wet, the little ditches didn't hold water very well. (All irrigation was gravity feed.) I went out with my brothers to help get things going properly. Mr. Angel had a Yakima pony that I rode, which was about the only "fun" thing there was to do. Speaking of fun, my mother often laughed about one day when my second brother laid on the bed and sang "Nobody loves me, everybody hates me, I think I'll go out in the garden and eat worms". I expect they were all bored to death.

George and John Crocker were my mother's brothers. Uncle George was living in a shack across the road from us. Later he moved his family out there. His daughter, Bernice, taught in Twin Falls High School for awhile and then married Norman Stoutenborough and came back here to live. She died a year and a half ago at the age of 92. She still had the farm north of ours.

The John Crocker children all have land there, too. We stayed in Idaho until August and came home by the way of Yellowstone Park. We spent a night in Monida and then had a week's trip driving around in the park in a stagecoach. Each night was spent in a different hotel. The one I remember most was Old Faithful Inn. The temperature was below freezing and we were dressed in summer clothes so we enjoyed the evening by a huge Fireplace.

It was good to get home again but I have had many years of happy thoughts of that summer.

MYERS FAMILY

Wanda & Bennie Myers

In 1906, Isaac Graham Linville got on an interurban in Roanoke, IL. I do not know where he had planned to go, but while traveling south, he started talking to the conductor. He told the man that he was looking for a business to buy. I.G. Linville was a High School teacher in Roanoke, married to Kathryn Ginther. They had one daughter, Mildred who was four years old, born Jan. 9, 1902.

The conductor told Mr. Linville that he knew of a hardware store that was for sale in Maroa, IL. The story was told that he got off the interurban in Maroa and bought that hardware store. On August 5th of that same year, 1906, a second daughter was born in Roanoke on Kathryn's 30th birthday. This little girl was named Naomi Kathryn. I do not know if she was born before or after he bought the hardware store.

It is also told that the first child born to I.G. and Kathryn was a little boy, Charles, who died of crib death when just an infant.Mr. Linville moved his wife and two daughters to Maroa, IL. and Linville Hardware became a reality. I wonder how much I.G. knew about running a hardware store. Most men love hardware stores so he probably learned quickly. I've always heard that he was a very intelligent man and a good businessman.

Kathryn Ginther was born in New Holland, IL. on August 5, 1906 to Caroline Stauder Ginther and William Ginther. The only thing I've ever heard about Grandmother Ginther was that Naomi and Mildred said that she sat in her rocking chair with a black shawl around her shoulders and didn't seem to be very well. Caroline was born in 1850 and died in 1918.

Kathryn had one sister, Bessie, born in 1886 and died in 1962. She was married to Floyd Wendell. They lived in New Holland, IL and had two sons, William and Ohmart. William was married to Lucille and they had two daughters, Kaye and Joy. Ohmart was married to Margaret. They did not have children.

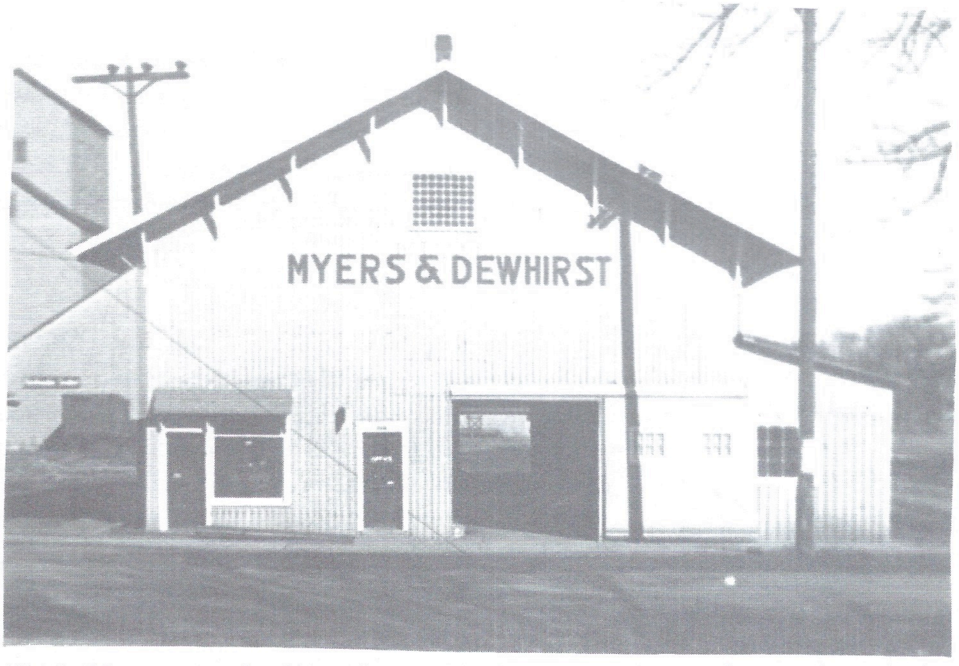
Another brother, George, born in 1877, married to Edna, born in 1884. They had a daughter Mary Caroline (called, Cherry). Ten years later in 1916, they had twin daughters, Garnet and Gretchen. Garnet is married to Bob Daylrmple and Gretchen was married to Al Swanson.

Brother Ed, born in 1884 and died in 1950, first wife was Ellen Dunn, later married Marguerite DeHass- no children in either marriage.

Harry Ginther (called Hi) was married to Myrtle and they lived on a farm in Mason City, IL. Harry was born in 1883, died in 1960, Myrtle, born, 1892, died in 1987. No children.

Isaac Graham Linville was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1866. He had an identical twin brother who was a judge in Elk City, Oklahoma. It is told that one time, I.G. went to Oklahoma to visit his brother and stopped and asked a man if he knew where Judge Linville lived. The man said "Oh Judge, you knows where you lives!" Remember they were identical twins.

I.G. Linville and Kathryn Ginther were married, June 24, 1893 in New Holland, IL. Most of their married life was spent in Maroa, IL. They were members of the Maroa Presbyterian Church. Mr Linville taught Sunday School for many years. Hisgrandson, Bennie, says that his most vivid memory of Granddad Linville was that on Sunday afternoons, he sat in a big chair in the dining room window, reading his Bible. It is said that he taught Naomi to drive when she was eleven years old so that she could take her mother to the places she needed to be. Mr. Linville passed away on August 19, 1938 and is buried in New Richmond Grove Cemetery, New Holland, Illinois.



This building is among the oldest still existing in Maroa. It was constructed as a warehouse for the Illinois Central Railroad and can be seen in pictures of the train Depot. In 2004 it still exists on the Northeast corner of Main and Chestnut.

I.G. and Kathryn's oldest daughter, Mildred taught school in Argenta, IL. She met and married Ray Bone of Argenta, IL. in 1925. They lived in Decatur, IL. and had several neighborhood grocery stores. They had three living children. Their first-born, a daughter, Shirley, died of crib death, when only two months old.
Richard Linville Bone, born Nov.30, 1926, married Joyce Moore on Oct. 19, 1948. They have two boys. Richard (Rick) living in Montrovia, California and James Randal (Randy) married to Rita, living in Indian Harbor Beach, Fla. They have three children, C.J., Jeffrey, and Elizabeth (Betsy).

Mildred and Ray's second child, Bonnie Patricia (Patty) married to William (Bill) Bertsch live in Belleville, IL. They have four children. Steve is married to Donna. Steve and Donna have two children, Jason and Julie and live in Decatur, IL. They have a daughter, Vickie, married to Steve Bendix, with a family of three boys: Drew, Joey and Kyle. A second daughter, Wendy, lives in Belleville. Another son, David, married to Denise, is living in Belleville with one son.

The youngest son, Robert G. Bone, married to Darlene Walker, lives in Fillmore, IL. They have four children: Russell Ray, Ronald, and Kathy Brownlee who has a son Lucas, and Patty Procaroni, married to Craig, with three children: Heather, Tyler, andTad, living in rural Maroa.

I.G. and Kathryn's second daughter, Naomi Kathryn, moved to Maroa, IL. in 1906, when just a baby. She attended grade school and graduated from Maroa High School in 1924 and was Salutatorian of her graduating class. She attended Millikin University in Decatur IL. for two years and earned a teaching certificate, which she never used. She did secretarial work in the Maroa and Forsyth area for many years. She met Bernard Irvin Myers, son of Bert and Henrietta Fredericks Trummel of rural Maroa. Bernard was born, Nov. 16, 1903. Bert's birthday was Aug. 4, 1876 and Etta was born Sept.17, 1875. Naomi and Bernard were married Sept. 5th, 1925. They lived in St.Louis for two years, where Bernard worked for Shapleigh Hdw. Co. They moved back to Maroa where their only child, a son, was born Oct. 12,1927. He was named Bernard Linville and weighed 10 lbs. and 13 oz. Bernard Sr. worked for his father-in-law at Linville Hdw. Co. Bernard Sr. and his son, were both called Bennie. Most people said "Big Ben" and "Little Ben".

Son, Bennie attended schools in Maroa, graduating from High School in 1945. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and left for

Great Lakes Naval Training Base in June 1945, shortly after graduating from High School. When he finished Boot Camp, World War II ended in the summer of 1945. Bennie stayed on at Great Lakes and worked in the separation center, up dating records for men and women that were returning home from overseas. He was then sent to Camp Shumaker in Oakland, California, awaiting reassignment. He was sent to San Diego, to a Naval Destroyer Base. Bennie remained in San Diego working on destroyer ships returning from battles in the South Pacific. He was discharged after 18 months of duty and returned home in August 1946. He started dating Wanda Rodgers. He worked for several months with his Dad at Linville Hdw. Co and then enrolled at Coyne Electronics School in Chicago, IL. for six months of training. After returning home, he continued working for Linville Hdw. Co. He and Wanda Rodgers were married in the Maroa Methodist Church on Mar. 20, 1946.

Henrietta Myers passed away, Mar.26, 1954, and is buried in Maroa Cemetery. Bert Myers, passed away in 1961 and is buried in Maroa Cemetery. Bernard I. Myers passed away Sept. 21, 1973, and is buried in Maroa Cemetery. Naomi Myers passed away Sept. 13, 1989, and is buried in Maroa Cemetery

RILEY FAMILY

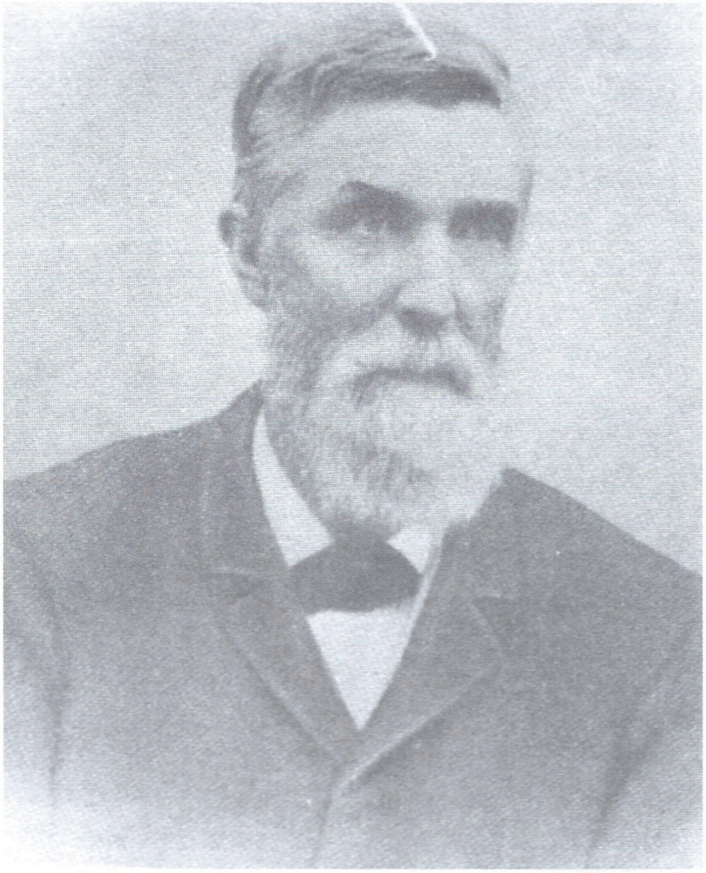
On May 20, 1929 Chester and Linnie Riley gave birth to Richard "Rick" Riley. Rick, along with his seven brothers and sisters attended Maroa Grade School. One of Rick's fondest memories from his school days was playing catcher for the Maroa Grade School baseball team.

On February 24, 1997 Rick and Louise Riley welcomed their first great grandson, Theodore "Teddy" McClellan into the world. Teddy's mother, M'lissa is Rick and Louise's first born granddaughter of their oldest daughter Sandy Denton.

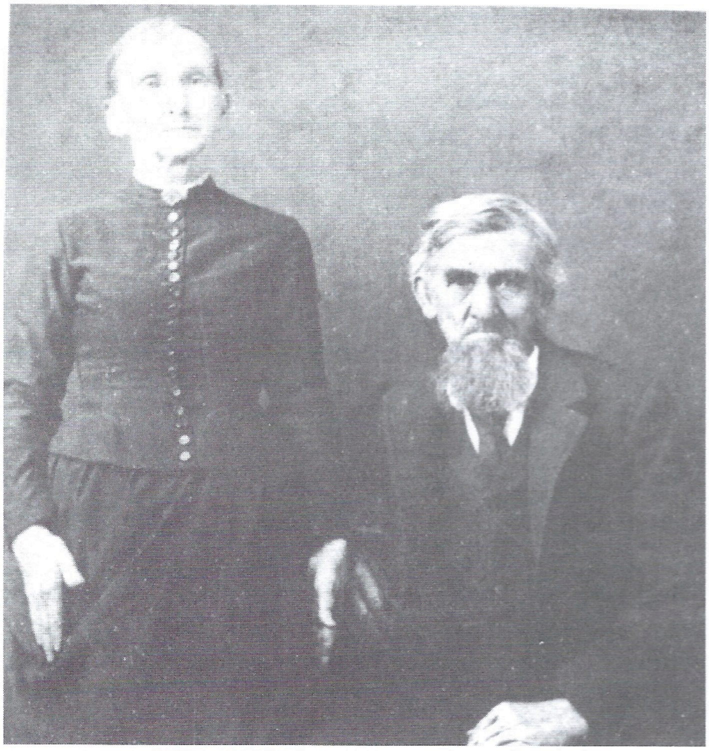
Today, like his great grandfather, Teddy enjoys playing catcher for the Maroa Grade School baseball team.

Despite the fact that Chester and Linnie Riley, who are both now deceased, left Maroa in 1945, they continue to remain a part of Maroa's past and present through their great, great grandson.

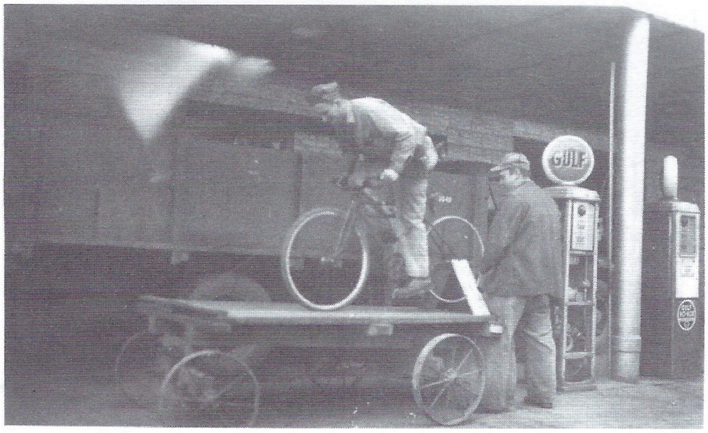
David Joel Moyer (1832-1909) was born in Preble County, Ohio. He came to Maroa in 1857 with Nelson Long and farmed west of town. In 1859 he married Mary Hilt. To them were born five daughters and one son: Clara, Anna, Ida (Adams) Drusilla (La Mon), Blanche (Dinwiddie) and Roy. In 1874 Mr. Moyer retired and moved to town in order to send his children to school here.



Edward Foulke was born in Hamilton County, Ohio in 1834. He came to Maroa Township in 1857 and settled south of town where his Grandson Edward, lived in 1954. He married Adelaide Colladay and their children were Anna, John, Edward L., Llewelyn, and Caroline. Mr. Foulke died in 1900.



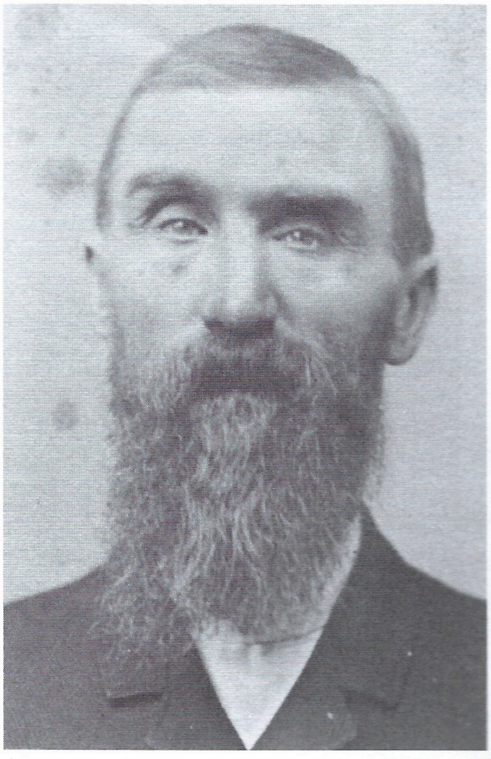
John D. Grady was born in Pennsylvania in 1825. He married Sarah Wray, who was born in 1831 and they came to the vicinity in 1854, settling on a farm one-mile north and one and one half miles east of Maroa. They were the parents of six children. Thomas C. Grady was born in DeWitt County, son of John D. and Sarah Grady. In 1883 he married Ella Mitchell of Webster City, Iowa. To them were born two children, Ethel (Stoutenborough) and Fred. In 1886, Mr. Grady established the Maroa Times, which he edited for seventeen years. After disposing of his interests to J. F. Mettler, he opened a real estate and insurance office. After his son was admitted to the bar, they shared this office together. Mr. Grady died in 1931. Vance R. Grady was born in 1863, son of John D. and Sarah Grady. In 1887 he married Lovie Seits, a native of Pennsylvania, who came to Illinois in 1868. They were the parents of six children Walter, Lloyd, and Floyd (twins), Ferne, Ella and Velma. William D. Creamer was born in Clermont County, Ohio in



Harold Lienhart partner of Maroa Implement Company fixed this bicycle so he could pump gas during WWII when the electricity was turned off during certain hours. The customer is unknown. The station was located on the lot behind M&M café.

BEWARE
OF THE DOG

Harold Lienhart and Bill McGuire



Frank Moore (1834-1905) married a Pennsylvania girl and moved to a farm west of Maroa. Their children were Mason, Humphrey, Town, Fred, Joseph (married Effie Cooper), Nellie (Parker), Minnie (Eble), Emma (Stoutenborough), and Lulu (Hutchinson).

Picture cir 1920 of Ladies in the creek.

Henry Funk was born in Morgan County, Illinois in 1854. When three months old, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Funk moved to Maroa and he lived here for fifty years. Then he moved to Decatur where he died in 1907. His wife was Armenia Bolen. Their children were Capitola, Lydia, Rex, Beryl (Frantz) and Cordell.

Florence Berry, 71, of Maroa takes to the air during a practice session at the Clinton High School long jump pit. Berry competes in senior events all across the United States.

RODGERS FAMILY

George Rodgers - 1906.

1906 Effie Catt

George William Rodgers was born March 16, 1883 in Hunt City , Il. in Jasper County. His father was Clinton Rodgers and his mother was Dolly Haws Rodgers. He had one brother, Ira, married to a woman named Edith and one sister, Rozella who was married to a man named, Olia Portlock. The Rodgers family grew up in the Newton, Il. area. George married Effie Lucinda Catt of Willow Hill, Il. on Sept. 17, 1905. Effie was born Aug. 3, 1885 to Charles and Nancy Catt. She had two sisters, Rachel and Millie, and three brothers, Jerome, Loranzo, and Wilburn. They were called Rome, Ran and Wib.

In his earlier years, George was a jockey, riding in a sulkey cart, pulled by a racing horse. I don't know if he ever won a race. He later had a broom factory. He grew his own broom corn, made the wooden sticks, tied the sheaves of broom corn with some kind of twine, and squared the ends to make the brooms.

In 1913, when George was 30 years old, he and Effie moved from Newton, Il. to work on a farm east of Maroa, Il, owned by L.E. Rogers. They had two children, a daughter, Carmen Ercel,who was six and Lowell Wilburn, their son, who was almost two . Carmen was born July 2, 1906 in Newton and Lowell was born Nov. 2, 1911, also in Newton. They worked as tenant farmers for several Maroa landowners.

Carmen and Lowell attended country schools- one called Prarie Chapel and another was the American School. Carmen started High School in a building south of the now existing Maroa Grade School. She spent her last two years of High School in a building on the west side of Maroa, where she was Valdictorian of the graduating class of 1924. Her best friends were Edna Rogers and Frances Wheeler. Lowell attended all four years in the same building , graduating in 1927. A new High School building was built around 1930. That building is still standing.

When Carmen graduated from High School, she took a teacher's exam which she passed. She enrolled in a summer session at Eastern Illinois University, and started her elementary teaching career in the American country school . Several of the Agee children were her students. She lived with various families who had children attending the school. She rode horseback to get to work, had to start the heating stove, carry in water to drink , and a lot of the students were bigger and taller than their teacher. I think she probably had approximately 25-30 students. She taught for four years and decided that she wanted to be a beauty operator. She attended Mrs. Heller's School of Beauty Culture in Decatur, Il., and became a teacher at this school. She met a lady named Jewel Coombes who had a shop on the fourth floor of the Citizens Bldg., in downtown Decatur, Il. Carmen joined her staff and worked in this shop until she was married.

In 1925, George and Effie moved to a farm owned by George and Iona Stoutenborough, which was located one mile north of Maroa on the Macon/DeWitt county dividing line. The farm was on the north side of the road so, it was in DeWitt County.

On August 21, 1928, a third child, a daughter, was born to George and Effie in the bedroom off the kitchen in the house owned by the Stoutenboroughs. George is now 46,, Effie is 44, Carmen, now 22 and Lowell is 17. This little girl was named Wanda Joan. The story is told that when Effie was 12 years old, a band of gypsies were camped down by a wooded area close to the farm home and that she used to sneak down there to visit with them She became infatuated with one of the women in this gypsy group by the name of Wanda. This lady taught Effie to tell fortunes by using a deck of playing cards. She told Effie that she would have three children. So, according to the story, that is where Wanda got her name.

This third baby was quite a surprise to everyone. In fact, I was told that since Effie did not tell anyone that she was expecting, it was rumored that the baby girl actually belonged to Carmen because she came home to be with her mother and stayed for three weeks. Carmen told Wanda that they had unexpected company every day that three weeks except for one afternoon when they had a rain storm. Carmen said that she had to be very lively and visable during those visits.

When Lowell graduated from High School, he had the nickname, "Rip Rodgers". I have not found anyone that knew where he got the name "Rip". He started farming with his dad. His best friends were Walter "Bud" Query and William C. "Bill" McGuire. Bud Query married a girl named Ethel from Macon, Il. and Lowell dated Ethel's best friend, Hazel Dinwiddee. The two couples and Bill McGuire were frequent guests at the Rodgers home for Sunday dinner. Little sister, Wanda remembers getting lots of attention at those Sunday get-to-gethers. (She adored her big brother,Lowell) He brought home several girlfriends, but on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 1937, Lowell married Clara Marie Brenning in the home of her parents, Walter and Naomi Brenning. They had three children, Loreeta Dean, born Oct.. 19, 1938, Lloyd Parker, born Dec. 13, 1940, and Lynn Edward, born Sept. 22, 1943.

Wanda was a child of the Great Depression. There was not much money from crops. She does not remember celebrating Christmas with gifts or her birthday until she was six years old. On her sixth birthday she received six new dresses from her big sister, Carmen, because Wanda was getting ready to start school. She attended

Back row on right: Effie and George Rodgers with baby Lowell(son) ;daughter Carmen in front of her mother, Effie. Aunt Mille Colt in white dress on right. A reminder to everyone seeing this - write the names of the people in your pictures on the back so those later on know who they are.

Randall country school . She could hardly wait for school to begin, but on the first day, she got all ready, her dinner bucket was packed, and the phone rang—school had been postponed until the following Monday, because the teacher was sick. Such a disappointment!!!!

Since her Dad was a farmer and usually busy, Wanda walked to school most of the time, leaving home at 7:30 AM to get to school by 8:00. One particular morning the road was so muddy that the farther Wanda walked, the heavier her boots got caked with mud and she kept walking slower and slower, finally reaching school at 9:00. There were three children in the first grade class, Jack Hoffman, Robert Lanter and Wanda. Their first teacher was Evelyn Maxwell. Another teacher was Evelyn Scribner, and her last teacher in country school was Venita Allsup.

On June 29, 1939, Carmen married Alvin Eugene Gourley of St. Petersburg, Fla. He was employed by Spencer Kellogg Grain and Feed Co., in Decatur, Il. They left Decatur and moved to Buffalo, N.Y., he was then transferred to Des. Moines,Iowa, still employed by Spencer Kellogg. A son was born on Oct. 3, 1943—Michael David. Gene was drafted and served in the U.S. Infantry, participating in the African Campaign of World War II. Michael was 2 1/2 years old before his Dad saw him for the first time.

When Wanda was 10 years old, her parents bought their first home, a little white house, owned by Claude and Iona Kirtley which is still standing at Williams Nursery, north of Maroa. Wanda started 6th Grade at Maroa Grade School. Her homeroom teacher was Evelyn Gibson. She loved school and wanted to participate in everything. She gave humorous readings competing with other grade schools in nearby towns. She doesn't remember if she ever received a first place rating. Her Mom said that when she was four years old she could sing and "carry a tune", but a bad sinus infection ,when she was five caused her to lose some of her hearing so she could not hear notes. She wanted to be a part of the a capella chorus so badly that the teacher let her sit at the piano and sound the notes for the choir to start singing. She took piano lessons from Miss Lucy Jones, and later from Oscarine Dewhirst. The only musical instrument the family had besides the piano was a violin, which she learned to play (sort of) in the Maroa High School Orchestra. When Wanda was 14 and a Freshman in High School, her Mother became ill with cancer. She died just after Wanda's 18th birthday on Nov. 5, 1947.

Carmen Rodgers at 12 years old in her front yard cir 1910.

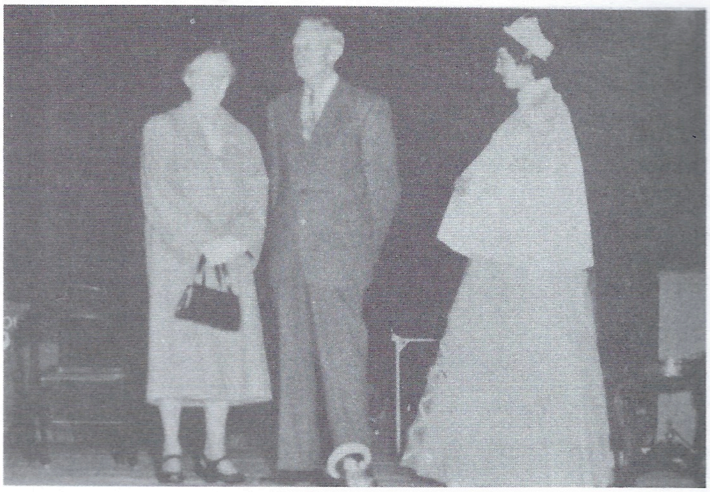
Wanda graduated from Maroa/Forsyth High School, 10th in her class, on April 24th, 1946. In August, 1946, Bernard Linville Myers came home from serving in the U.S. Navy, and he and Wanda started dating. They were married in the Maroa United Methodist Church in Maroa, on March 20th, 1949. They had four children—Kathy Lyn, born, July 10th, 1951, Kirk Alan, born, Nov. 29th, 1955, Lisa Kelleen, born, Sept. 12, 1958, and Kimberly Jill born, Oct. 4, 1964.

At the writing of this history , May, 2004. their family is as follows.;
Kathy married to Jeff Sharp on April 25, 1998. Kathy has a son , Michael Blanco, born Nov. 14, 1973
Kathy was married to Jorge Blanco, 1973-1979
Jeff has a son, Damon, that has been serving in the U.S. Army in Baghdad, presently home on leave, to return overseas in July -2004 . Damon has one son, Andrew.
Kirk, married to Julia Blair, Oct. 19, 1990 at an outdoor wedding, at the Clinton Country Club.
One son, Chase Isaac, born, October 6, 1993
One daughter, Savannah Clair, born April 21, 1995

Lisa, married to James E. Peck , June 2, 1984
One son, James Bernard, born, Jan 19,1987
One son, Jordan Michael, born, April 3, 1990
One daughter, Linda Kelleen, born, August, 25, 1991

Mrs. W. C. McGuire, First President of the Maroa High School PTA

Mrs. T. R. Cox, First Vice-President of the Maroa High school PTA



Special awards from the Centennial, Mr. and Mrs. Velma Davis are the native born couple who have been married the longest - 49 years.

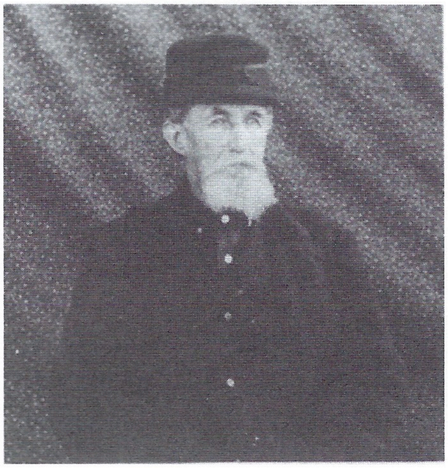
Mrs. N. B. Stoutenborough Charter secretary of the High School PTA

TIDBIT

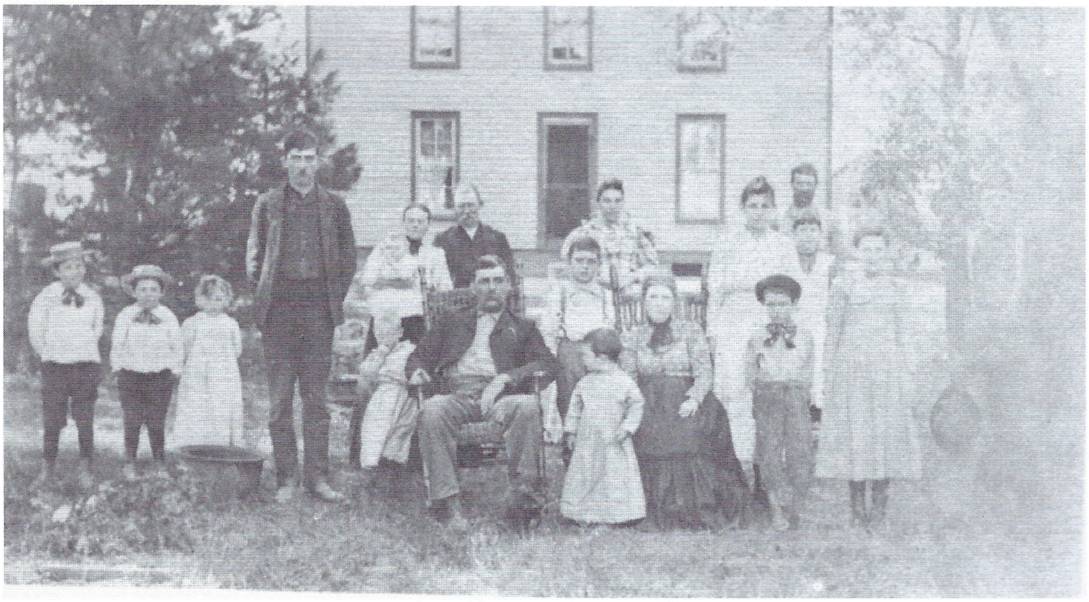
What I like about living /visiting Maroa:

I love that everyone is so friendly, and they are always willing to help. It does not matter if you have lived here all your life, or a recent 'Maroan', everyone is encouraged to become involved and enjoy your life in Maroa. I am very fortunate that God's path for me crossed through Maroa.

Ray Ramirez DVM Sesquicentennial committee member age 43



Mark Tozer was born in New Hampshire in 1836 and was among the early 1857 settlers of Maroa. He was a brother of Dr. Luke Tozer who practiced here in the early days. He was a farmer and a prominent stock buyer. His wife was Sophronia Covey of Pike County, Illinois. They were the parents of thirteen children, two of whom survive. Mr. Tozer died in 1909.



Families of James and Anna Pulliam, George and Augusta Miller, Douglas and Anna Miller.

Kimberly Jill, married to Richard Fox III November 19, 1989
One daughter, Caroline Linville,born, Dec.16, 1991
One son, Jonathon (Jack) Graham ,born,October 30, 1995
One son, Griffin Prescott, born, August 20, 1997

Bernard (Bennie) owned and operated Linville Hardware Store, Myers Plumbing and Heating, and is presently a Rural Mail Carrier for the Maroa U.S.Post Office.

Wanda worked as secretary for Sanks Insurance Agency, Decatur Housing Authority (Rent Control;) Phillips Petroleum of Forsyth, Dr. W.L. Terrell, Linville Hardware, retired as Jr. High Secretary for Maroa/Forsyth Schools.

Effie Rodgers passed away Nov. 5, 1947 Geroge Rodgers passed away, December 30,1959.They are buried in the Maroa Cemetery.

Lowell Rodgers passed away, October 9, 1970. He is buried in the Maroa Cemetery.

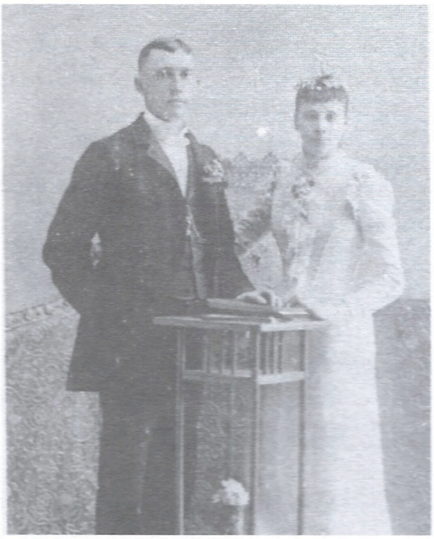
Carmen Rodgers Gourley passed away Dec. 6, 1975 in Arlington, Va. She is buried in Des Moines, Iowa. Alvin Eugene Gourley, passed away May 5, 1976 in Tokyo, Japan while working as an Agricultural Attache to Japan. He was brought back to the United States and buried in Des Moines, Iowa.

Lloyd Parker Rodgers, oldest son of Lowell passed away in Maroa, Il. Sept.27, 2003 and is buried in Maroa Illinois.

Written by Wanda Rodgers Myers, May 2004 for the Susqucentennial Celebration Yearbook

ROGERS FAMILY

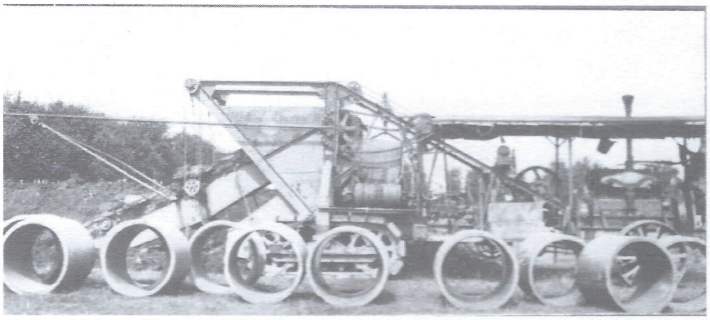
All my great grandparents lived in Austin Township in the mid 1800's. Richard Rogers, Christian Rau, Johnathon Nowlin, and Bivens Jump. Louis Rogers married Anna Rau. Cortez Nowlin married Minnie Jump. Then Clayton Rogers married Gladys Nowlin. From this marriage came Roberta (Young), Barbara (Gray), and John Rogers. Barbara and two daughters and grandchildren all live in northern Illinois. Still in the Maroa area are Roberta's four sons, Roger, Richard, Charles and Curtis. They each have familes and some grandchildren and several of them still in Maroa.



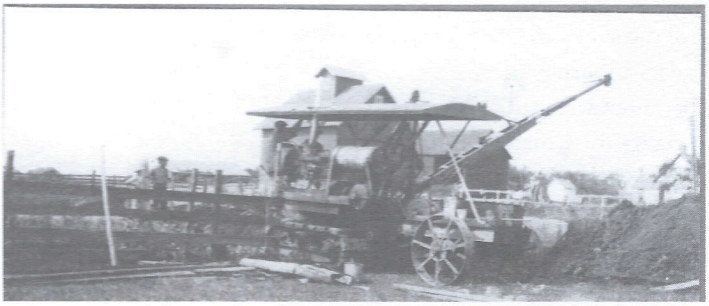
Mr. and Mrs. Louis E. Rogers have been married 62 years. He was born in Bearsdale and she was born northeast of Latham, Illinois.

Back row left to right: Suzanne Rogers, John Rogers, Bob Hagen, 2nd row: Sue Rogers, Tom Rogers, Leesa Rogers Hagen, Andrew Hagen: 3rd sitting Becky Rogers, Hallee Hagen
Picture was taken April 4, 2004 in front of the house built in 1908 by Louis Rogers and is located 1804 East Hampshire road.

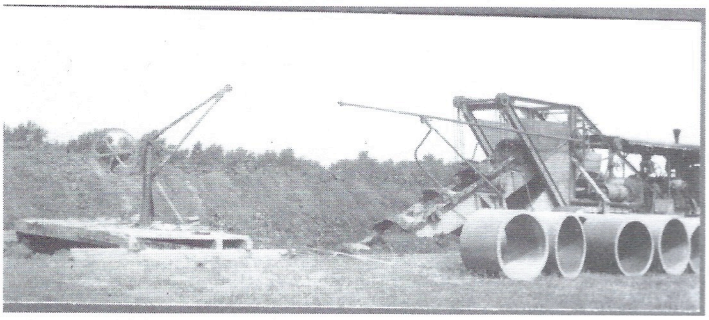
Special awards from the Centennial, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Rogers, couple who have been married the longest - 62 years.



Picture of drainage tile being installed - 1923.



Another picture of drainage tile being installed - 1923.



Another picture of drainage tile being installed - 1923.

John's wife Sue still resides on the Centennial farm in Maroa Township. Their children are Leesa (Hagen), Thomas and Suzanne. Tom and his wife Becky, live in Maroa. He operates several farms around Maroa. Two of these were owned by his great grandparents, Louis Rogers and Cortez Nowlin.

Another Louis and Anna Rogers were honored at the centennial celebration for the longest married couple at 62 years, and they had 5 more years after that! They also had a daugher, Edna. She taught several years in a one room country school, then consolidation brought her to teach third grade in Maroa until her retirement. She is the oldest resident in Maroa Township, still living on the farm outside of Maroa.
Submitted by John Rogers (sadly, John passed away after submitting this article in May, 2004)

EDNA GRACE ROGERS

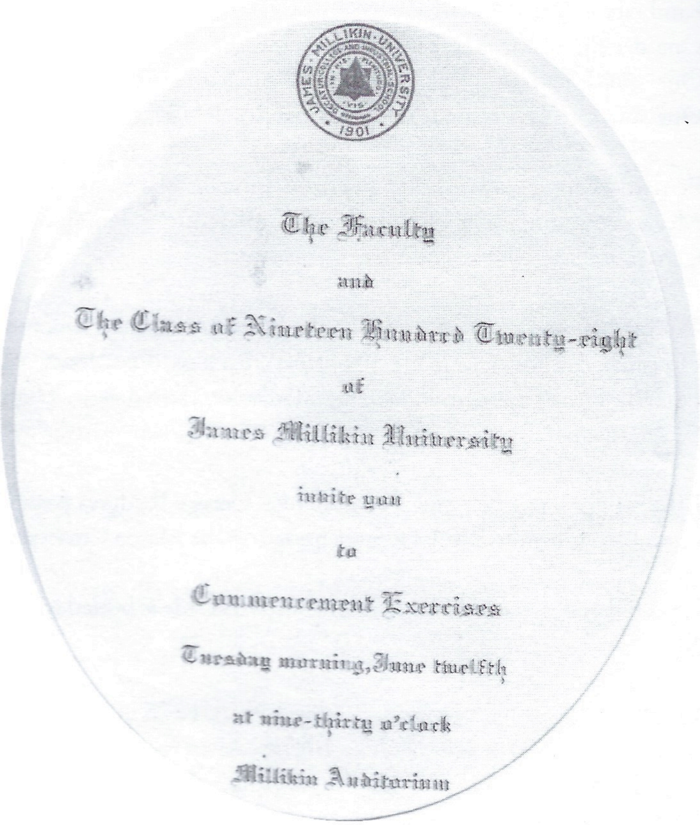
Born 12-31-1905 in Maroa township, section 24 in a small white house. In the year 1908 the Louis Rogers family built a new farm house with a local builder, Frank Potter. A large barn was constructed there in 1909 and is in good condition and used today.

Picture of Edna Rogers, one of our distinguished citizens.

Edna grew up on the farm with her parents and brother Clayton Rogers. The farm and house is still owned by the Rogers family today. During the early years they attended a small Methodist church in Emery until they attended the Maroa Methodist church in Maroa.

Edna's father was active in politics during the period and helped with the planning and building of Harmony school.

Edna started her first year of school at Harmony along with Clayton. Her teacher was Nina Hedges. Completing 10 grades at Harmony in 1921. Her gradution dress and school slate is on display today at the 150 years celebration.



The Faculty
and
The Class of Nineteen Hundred Twenty-eight
of
James Millikin University
invite you
to
Commencement Exercises
Tuesday morning, June twelfth
at nine-thirty o'clock
Millikin Auditorium

Edna Rogers graduation announcement from Millikin University

On to high school at maroa graduating in 1924. She attended James Millikin University graduating in 1928 with a Bachelor of Science in Household Arts.

In 1929 she began her career working out of home extension office in Macon County. She worked as an organizer for the 4H clubs at $100 per month. From 4H work to teaching school she started at Fair Play school for 2 years until moving to Maroa Grade in 1930 where she remained until 1971. Retiring from teaching school she taught Sunday school at the Maroa Methodist church til the "ripe age of 94".

Other interesting notes:

She purchased a Schwinn bicycle, one of the first small tired bicycles enabling her to ride to her teaching job. She rode the bicycle at age 92.

When ready to leave the 10th grade she had to go to the courthouse and take an exam before going into high school. She passed with flying colors and the test plus her school slate are on display today.

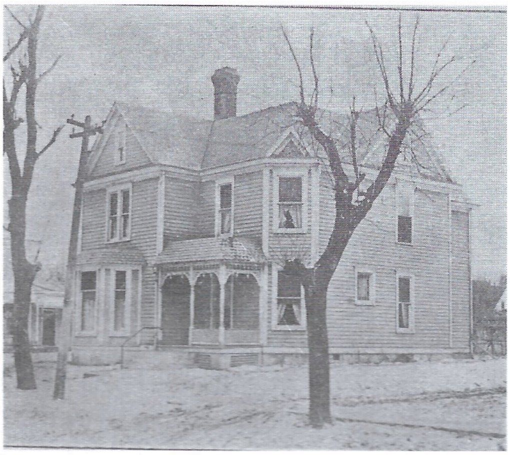
She lived on the home place until 1995 then moved into town for 2 years. Finding out she was a "country girl at heart" she moved back to the country and lives by herself today. She has a small garden and remains active at 98 ½. As the oldest resident of Maroa she rides in the Sesquicentennial parade with a smile on her face for the wonderful years she has experienced.

SCHENCK FAMILY

In 1793 General William S. Schenck was appointed by Governor E. A. Brown of Ohio to survey a route for the canal from Lake Erie to Cincinnati. He built a log cabin on the bank of the Miami River, laid out and settled the city of Franklin, Ohio. His father and brother, John Noble Cummings Schenck, joined him in Franklin and they are the progenitors of the Schencks who still live in and around Dayton, Ohio.

Mr. Garrett J. Schenck, Mrs. Alice (Sill) Schenck about 1844

Robert C. Schenck, son of Wm. S. Schenck, was born in Franklin, Ohio, in 1809. He became a lawyer in Dayton. On September 17, 1859 he introduced Abraham Lincoln on the steps of the old courthouse in Dayton. In 1862 he was sent to Congress. He became a Major General in the army and was later sent as our minister to England. He died in 1890.



The Schenck family home taken circa 1900.

The Schenck family record, though not continuously intact, can be traced back to 878 A. D. in Holland where the first of the name were cupbearers to the king, that being the meaning of the name Schenck. The American ancestor was Roelof Schenck, who came to this country in 1640.

Picture of Schenck family member.

Among the descendants of Gen. Wm. S. Schenck was Aaron D. Schenck (1826-1888). He married Rebecca Barkelow (1827-1904) and they spent all their lives in Ohio except a short time during their later life when they were with a daughter, Ella, in Maroa. They both died in Ohio. To them were born ten children, eight of whom lived to maturity. Five of them came to Maroa but only three remained here.

Four Schenck brothers: Standing Charles and William. Seated Frank and John.

Paul F. Schenck of Dayton, Ohio, a grandson of Aaron D. Schenck, is now serving his second term in Congress - a Republican from the State of Ohio in 1954. Two descendants of John Noble Cummings Schenck served in the U. S. House of Representatives.

The old home built by John N. C. Schenck still stands by the river in Franklin, Ohio.

The five children of Aaron D. and Rebecca Schenck who came to Maroa were Charles F., Rhoda (McClung), Ella, Anna (Eminger) and Carl D. There were two families of Schencks in Maroa. No relationship was ever established between them but they intermarried.

Chas. F. (1862-1933) was the first of the family to come to Maroa. He came in 1885 and established the Schenck Cigar Co., which was still an active business in 1954. A few years later his sister, Rhoda, and her husband, Wm. F. McClung, came and joined Mr. Schenck in the cigar business but they later returned to Ohio. Mr. Schenck's wife was Lillian, a daughter of William H. Stoutenborough.

Ella (1853 - 1937) married Frank, son of Mr. and Mrs. Garrett Schenck. They both worked in the cigar factory.

Anna (1864-1937) married Irvin Eminger. They lived in Maroa for a while, moving later to Mt. Pulaski, Illinois.

Carl D. (1873-1953) married Maymie Wells (1875-1929), September 27, 1894. A daughter, Mary Adelle, died at birth. A son, Earl Wells, born in 1908, lives in Louisville, Kentucky. He and his wife have three children. In 1931 Mr. Schenck married Lois V. Davis and she is now the only resident of Maroa in 1954 bearing the name of Schenck.

Carl D. Schenck came to Maroa at the age of 13 and started on the road as a cigar salesman five years later for his brother, C. F. Later he was made shop foreman and in 1931, when C. F. retired, he became co-owner of the factory. Carl remained active in business for sixty-one years. At the time of his retirement he was the oldest cigar salesman in the State of Illinois and the oldest man in business in Maroa. In 1952 he sold his interest in the factory and retired.

The Schenck Cigar Co. was organized in August 1885. It later became a corporation and at one time supported thirty families in Maroa. The manufacture of cigars ceased in 1924 but wholesale business has continued without interruption since that time, a continuous business for almost seventy years in Maroa.

CHARLES SCHENCK

Charles Schenck born May 14, 1849

Carrie Waller- was married to Charles Schenck in 1881.

Charles Schenck was born in Franklin, Ohio, May 14, 1849, and came to Maroa, Illinois with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Schenck, in 1854. Carrie Waller was born in Princeton, Ohio, October 12, 1860 and came to Maroa in 1874 with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Waller. Mr. Schenck and Miss Waller were married in Maroa on October 11, 1881. They had one daughter, Edna, who married W. Lee Kempshall on September 8, 1907. The Kempshalls have one son, Wayne S., who married Ruth M. Brown of Long Point, Illinois, on August 9, 1937. Wayne and his wife and children live in Decatur, Illinois. Their daughter, Ann, is eleven years old and their son, Robert Lee, is seven. These are the only great-grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Schenck. Mr. Schenck died March 11, 1923, and his wife died March 15, 1947.

WILLIAM SCHENCK FAMILY

William Schenck was born March 5, 1860, in the first house built in Maroa. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Garrett Schenck. He attended public schools here, later going to business school in Chicago. Returning to Maroa in 1880, he soon started an Insurance business which he continued until his retirement in 19—. He was interested in many civic enterprises and had an interest in the Maroa Manufacturing Co., and the Crocker Elevator Co.

On July 27, 1880, Mr. Schenck married Frances E. Ross who was born in Missouri on September 5, 1860 and came to Maroa at the age of ten years. To this union two daughters were born. They are Alice Wyatt and Edith Clark, wife of Lynn Clark of Decatur.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Schenck

Mr. and Mrs. Schenck were members of the Presbyterian Church and were tireless workers there. For many years they sang in a quartette at the morning services. The other two members were Chas. F. Schenck and his sister, Mrs. Ella Schenck. When Mr. Schenck retired, they moved to Decatur where he died in 1945. Mrs. Schenck died in 1942.

William and Frances (Ross) Schenck

Alice, who married James 0. Wyatt, in 1954 lived at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, at the home of her son, William. William was born in Maroa January 13, 1911. He enlisted in the U. S. Army Reserve Corps in 1928 and has been in the army since that time, having attained the rank of Lt. Colonel in 1950. On April 6, 1936, he married Shirley Viola McWhorter of Minneapolis, Minnesota. They have three daughters: Dianne Lee and twins, Stephanie Sue and Cheryl Lynne.

Mr. and Mrs. dark had two daughters: Frances Jane (Eschelman) deceased, and Joan (Bliler). There are two grandchildren: Douglas Clark Eschelman and Jennifer Lynn Bliler.

DAVID SCHENCK FAMILY

David Schenck was born in York, New Jersey, October 8, 1825. His parents dying when he was a child he was cared for in an orphanage, where he learned the blacksmith trade. When a young man, he moved to Franklin, Ohio, where he followed his trade for some time. At this place he met Miss Huldah Long and they were married January 14, 1847.

In 1853, in company with relatives, Mr. Schenck drove to Illinois and purchased 130 acres of land three miles west and one mile north of the present town of Maroa. Returning to his Ohio home, he made plans to move west, but on account of sickness in his home, he did not make the trip back until October 1854. The move was made in a covered wagon. Mr. and Mrs. Schenck and three small children lived in a log cabin on their land. Mr. Schenck soon built a blacksmith shop just south of his home and operated that for a number of years along with his farming.

Four daughters and one son were born to this union namely: Catherine, Ann Eliza, Ella, Alice and Silas J.

Catherine married William H. Stoutenborough and their children were Lillian (Mrs. Charles F. Schenck), Hattie Jane (Mrs. James Patterson), and Harry. Mrs. Patterson, the only one surviving, resides in Los Angeles, California.

Ann Eliza married Robert Miller and died, leaving no children.

Ella died at the age of twelve.

Alice was born after the family moved to Illinois. She married Charles Milnes and their children, all living, are William and Elva (Crabtree) both of Maroa, Edward of Decatur, Illinois, and John of Macon, Illinois.

Alice & William Schenck

Silas J. was born in the family home near Maroa in 1860. He married Margaret Bolen and they had two daughters, Edith (Mrs. Chas. Stivers) and Lydia (Mrs. Ray Q. Norris). Mrs. Norris survives and lives in Maroa.

The house which still stands on the Schenck homestead was built in 1869. The farm is owned by R.E. Reeser and wife in 1954, the former Maxine Stivers, a great-granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. David Schenck.

Much land was acquired by the Schencks, but "Uncle Dave," as all of his friends called him, resided on his first farm until his death, May 22, 1914. His wife preceded him in death, August 13, 1892.

John Schenck, one of the sons of Garrett Schenck, married Eva Herstine (1857-1938) May 21, 1878. They had a family of ten children. George, Fred and Marguerite are deceased as of 1954. The others are: Alma, Zella McGrath, Agnes Slater, Hulda Eseman, Hugh, Harmel, and Ora Breen.

Joseph Bennett was born in Ashland County, Ohio, in 1840. In 1856 he came by wagon to Illinois with a group of forty people. In this group were George Query, David Braden, Solomon Braden, Dan Braden, John Defenbaugh, Joshua Hoff, and Dan Wolf. They settled in Dutch Lane, a community three miles east and three miles north of Maroa and all remained in the vicinity of Maroa except Dan Wolf, who returned to Ohio. Mr. Bennett married Iva Cross in 1865 and to them eight children were born, five of whom survive. Mr. Bennett died in 1932.

SCHULTZ FAMILY

picture of John Michael Schultz (1821-1893) and Franzisca Leins Schultz (1832-1906)

Schultz Family Picture cir. 1910.

John Michael Schultz and his family traveled from Wuerttemberg, Germany and arrived in Baltimore in 1832. From there the family moved to Ohio, Philadelphia, and Pennsylvania. A son, born of eleven children, Heinrich (Henry) Albert Schultz born on the family farm in Friends Creek Township, Macon County, Illinois. Father, John Michael Schultz and mother Franzisca Leins Schultz moved to Maroa. Henry Albert Schultz married Catherine "Katie" Rose in his fathers house at 239 N. Wood Street in Maroa. Children of Henry Albert and Katie (Rose) Schultz were: William Michael Schultz, Roy Rinaldo Schultz, Letha Belle Schultz, Edna Myrtle Schultz , Verda Ruth Schultz, Lucile Wanda Schultz, Gladys Marguerite Schultz, Irma Lenora Schultz, George Rose Schultz, and Bernard John Schultz.

Edna Myrtle was born May 19, 1892. Edna Myrtle married Fred Thomas January 25, 1910. They had five children Hubert, Glen, Kathryn, Beradine, and Freda. Fred and Edna were farmers until retirement where they moved into her father's house at 239 N. Wood Street in Maroa.

John Michael Schultz, Franzisca Leins Schultz, Henry Albert Schultz and his first wife are burried in the family plot in Maroa. Submitted by Glenda (Thomas) Church and Richard Thomas.

W. O. SHAW

J. W. B. Shaw and Mary Bowlby Shaw were married in Milford, Ohio, January 9, 1862. They immediately moved to Tunbridge Township, DeWitt County, Illinois, where they lived for one year.

They purchased 160 acres of land 5 one half miles west of Maroa for thirty-three and a third dollars ($33.33) an acre and moved in the house which today still stands on this land.

Here five sons were born: Henry, who died at birth; Charlie, who lived 8 years; David, who lived until past 80 years; William, who was born February 1, 1868 and is now 86 years of age; Ryland, who lived 77 years, and Amos, the youngest, who died at 8 years.

About 1878 J. W. B. Shaw had accumulated enough money to pay for 40 acres of land across the road. This cost sixteen hundred dollars ($1,600) and was paid for in gold. The gold was kept in the basement of the house, as it was believed that banks were too new to be trusted. W. 0. Shaw remembers helping his father count the gold.

Special awards from the Centennial, Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Shaw. Mr. Shaw, who is 86, won first in "Oldest man with Beard" and "Oldest Man in Costume"

Later J. W. B. Shaw purchased 160 acres which joined the home place on the west and paid fifty dollars ($50.00) an acre. In those days oats, corn and hay were the main crops.

Several years later J. W. B. Shaw bought 80 acres adjoining for fifty-five dollars ($55.00) an acre and 120 acres for forty-seven dollars and fifty cents ($47.50) an acre. William Shaw received his education at the Mud Chapel country school. All the other education he had, has been acquired by reading, travel and experiences of life.

On December 22, 1889, William Shaw married Alice Adams and moved to a house on 80 acres belonging to his father, J. W. B. Shaw. The house was located west of the home place and they lived there for 16 years. Two children were born there, Hazel, on January 5, 1891, and Cecel, April 1, 1893.

In 1905 Mr. and Mrs. Shaw moved to Maroa and lived in a house, which is still standing, one block south of the Christian Church. They lived there for 4 years. Glenn, the only son, was born there June 12, 1907. Mr. Shaw purchased a lot from the Norris farm on the Bloomington road, built a house and moved there in 1909.

Here on June 25, 1914, Alice Shaw, wife of W. 0. Shaw died. One daughter, Hazel, died February 5, 1915 in Sierra Madre, California.

On November 6, 1916, W. 0. Shaw married Eva Adams and drove to St. Petersburg, Florida. Since that time they have spent their winters in Florida and the summers on the farm west of Maroa where the son, Glenn and his father have been farming since 1926.

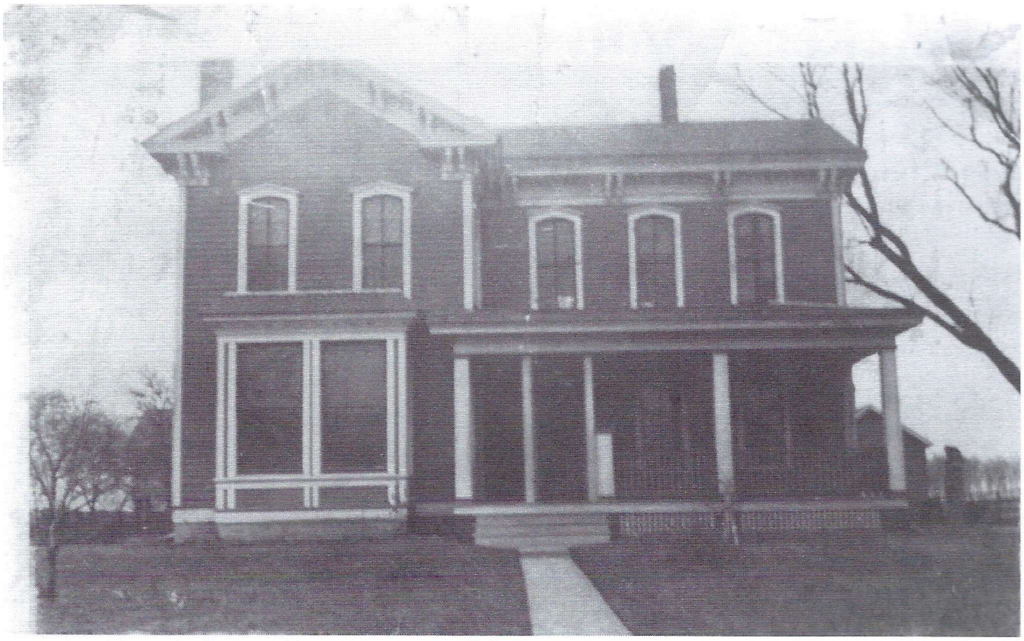
W. 0. Shaw now has two grandchildren, Dr. C. K. Donegan, St. Petersburg, Florida and Mildred (Mrs. Douglas Cole) of Largo, Florida, and six great-grandchildren, Anna, Martha and Tommy Donegan, and Colleen, Craig and Karen Cole.

SHOEMAKER FAMILY

Abe Shoemaker was born in Scoto County in Minford, Ohio, on February, 25,1868, to Jacob and Permilia (Nye) Shoemaker.

He came to Clinton, Illinois when he was a young man. He worked on the farm until he married Romina Bennett. They bought a farm of 160 acres from Jasper Jones. His great grandson. Gay and wife Toni live their now. To that union a son, Joseph E., was born on September 29,1896.

Abe Shoemaker and Nina Shoemaker taken circa 1920.



Shoemaker home, purchased by Jack and Generva Shoemaker 1893.

On February 20,1918, he took for his bride Marie Lienhart and they lived east of Maroa. To this union was bom one son, Willard. They moved to Ennis farm east of Maroa on the County Line. Willard attended Willow Lane School and graduated from Maroa High School in 1941. Willard married Opal Wise of Clinton in 1952. They lived four miles east of Maroa and one mile north. They are the parents of five children-Gay and Eric of Maroa, Linda of Council Bluffs, Iowa, Marsha of Schaumburg, and Melody of Kansas City, Missouri.

Willard and Opal have five grandchildren. Willard and Opal moved into Maroa in 1994.

Four generation picture Iva Shoemaker, Cleo Shoemaker Hilt, Sharon Hilt Johnson, Jacque Johnson McBride at house 1964.

TIDBIT

Recall a story about life in Maroa:
Living in the country made going to "town" (Maroa) really special. When I was a teenager I looked forward to the Tuesday night free shows and the Saturday night square dances at the Community Building. The free shows were held in the vacant lot where the post office now stands and the Cozy Nook cafe was right across the street to the north.
Ruth Ann Wilson Sesquicentennial committee member age 66

Sharon Hilt Johnson and Joe L. Hilt in front of house 1940's.

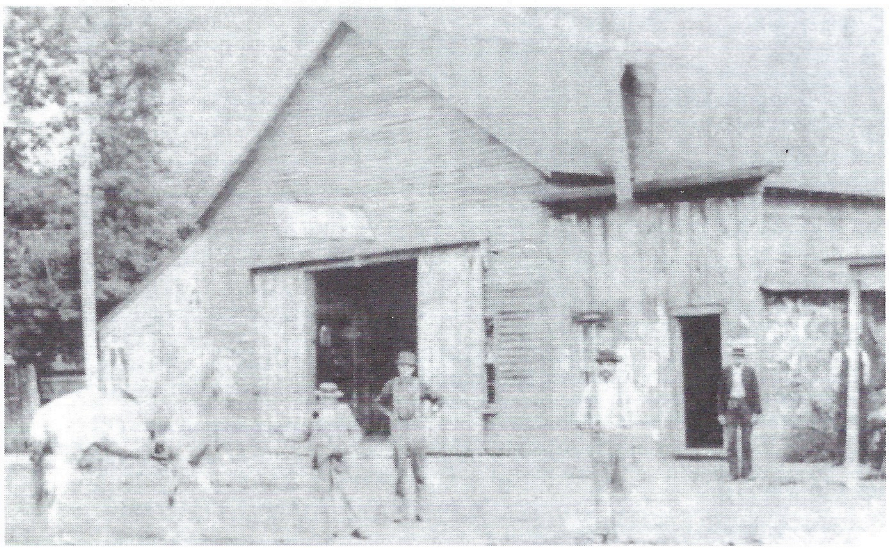
The Andrew Shoemaker Family

Andrew Jackson "Jack" Shoemaker was born in Scioto, Ohio in 1862 and came to Illinois as a young man. He married Generva Grady whose ancestors originated in Ireland, later Pennsylvania then moving to Dewitt County in 1856.

Jack and Generva married in 1888, purchased 120 acres of land near Maroa and was also a stock farmer. They had three children: John, born in 1889; Emma born in 1897 and Oma born in 1905. Oma married Harold "Jim" Reed and later purchased the property one-half mile east of Maroa across from the Maroa Cemetery. This property had been the site of the Tile and Brick Factory built in 1878 by W. H. Long and Stoutenborough.

The house that currently stands on the property had been used as the Christian Church in Maroa, built in 1856 by Dr. J. W. Thayer and moved to its present location. The house was occupied by Jim and Oma Reed, who had three children: Wanda Agee (now deceased), Jimmie and Donna. After Jim and Oma's deaths, their daughter Donna and her husband Jim Mullins moved into the house where they raised their two children: Mickey and Tim. Mickey has a daughter, Miranda and Tim has a son, Matt.

Mrs. Generva Shoemaker was born one and one half miles north east of Maora on August 7, 1869.She had three children, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

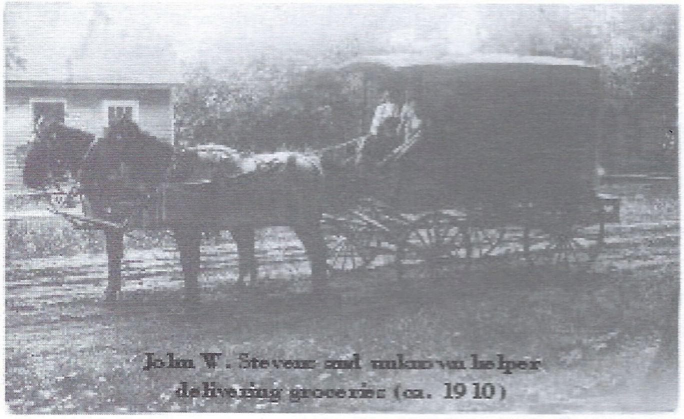


(Above) Livery Stable, on the site where the Community Center now stands. Proprieter was Harry Reed.
(Left) Tile Works of W. H. Long, located 1/2 mile east of Maroa. Built by Long and Stoutenborough in 1878. Capacity of 250,000 ft. per annum.
(Below) Felix Clark hauling dirt for the Tile Factory.

STEVENS FAMILY

Around 1880 at the age of 19, my grandfather, John William Stevens, left the family homestead in Virginia for a new start in the Midwest. Maroa was his third stop. After visiting an uncle in Mexico, Missouri, and while earning a business certificate from Quincy Business College he learned about opportunity in Maroa. He made at least one trip from Quincy to Maroa on a hand-made bicycle.

He became a partner in Stevens and Evey Fancy Grocery store located on Main Street. The wagon pictured here delivered groceries and dry goods around town. John was able to repair clocks and watches and play a banjo, skills he passed on to my father.


John W. Stevens and unknown helper
delivering groceries (ca. 1910)

John W. Stevens and unknown helper delivering groceries cir 1910.

In 1910 John married my grandmother, Lena Maude Barger, one of seven children of Henry and Mary Barger, two of Maroa's earliest residents. The Barger family lived and farmed east of town and Henry is pictured here on a mule-drawn grader, possibly the first to maintain Macon County roads. What remains of that piece of machinery is located behind my house at West Jackson and Wood Streets.

John W. Stevens and partner at Stevens and Evey Grocery store on Main Street cir 1910.

John Stevens contracted tuberculosis and in 1918 sold the store and moved his family to Arkansas looking for the "cure". It didn't work and the family returned to Maroa the next year. John again sought a more healthful climate, but a Colorado sanitarium worked no better. Back in Maroa, he lost a lengthy battle with TB in 1924. My dad credited his survival to his mother's idea that he sleep on the back porch one whole winter, away from contagious air in the house. Dad's sister, Alberta Virginia, was not as lucky. Of three children born to John and Maude Stevens, only my dad, William Edwin "Eddie" Stevens survived to adulthood. Dad graduated from Maroa HS in 1929, played all sports and I believe he knew everyone in town. Dad returned to Maroa after WWII with a Czech war bride, my mother Edith H. Stevens. For the Maroa Centennial in 1954, my mother made old-fashioned dresses for my two sisters, Lorna and Mary, and herself and we stood in front of our house for a family picture that appeared in a Centennial

book. If any copies of that book are still around, I'm the one holding the rifle. I knew many of my dad's friends and relatives - several had memorable nick names like: Chick, Peanuts, Strawberry, Feather, Pee Wee, Bus, Snake, Capy, Irish, Swede, Cupie, Buck, Wince, Shorty, Shuey, Fats, Skinny, Pop, Red and Bubba, to name just a few. Dad worked at the Macon Arms plant in Decatur, until it closed in 1958, after my 5th grade school year. Our family moved to Kansas City but kept the house and returned for many visits and to retell stories with cousins and old friends.

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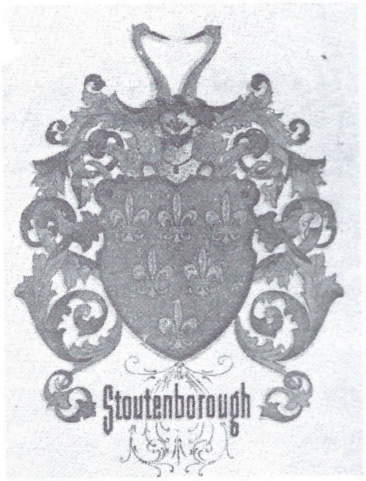
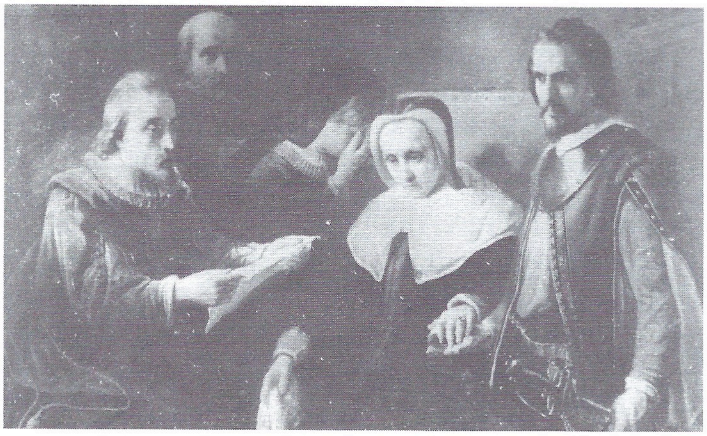
VAN STOUTENBURG FAMILY

The van Stoutenburg family lived near Amersfoort in the Province of Utrecht, Holland, where for 700 years the Castle of Stoutenburg stood. The original castle was completely destroyed during the war and the stone sold, so that today nothing remains except some ancient beech trees and the outer moat. There are many old buildings still standing, one of the brick with thatched roof with the Stoutenburg Coat of Arms. The Coat of Arms is blazoned: Arms-Gules, six fleur-delis argent. Crest- Two cranes' heads and necks accostees argent, beaked gules. The motto "Nil scire tuttissima fides" means "Nothing known of them but the utmost fidelity." There are two ancient oak trees standing at the entrance of the estate, known as Adam and Eve, said to have stood since the beginning of the 17th century, one of which bears the inscription: "These trees were planted by Johan van Olden Barneveldt in the time of Lord Stoutenburg."



Records go back to the year 1252 in Holland when the estate was established by Walter van Amersfoort. Through political maneuvers it was taken away from the family but Johan van Olden Barneveldt, the common ancestor, recovered it and after he was decapitated, the estate passed into the hands of his sons, William and Groenveld, both called Lord of Stoutenburg. The death warrant was given by Prince Maurice of Nassau, son of William the Silent. He was condemned to death in 1619 on the charge of high treason, but actually because of his opposition to Maurice. The wife of Johan van Olden Barneveldt was Maria of Utrecht. The son of William, Lord of Stoutenburg, Pieter van Stoutenburg came to America. So far as can be determined, he is the only one of this name to come to this country. In 1242 in Holland, the name was spelled Stoutenburch; a hundred years later in Holland, Stoutenburg, then Stoutenburgh. It has also been spelled Stoutenberg, Stoughtenborough, Stottenborough and Stoutenborough.

PIETER VAN STOUTENBURGH, was born about 1613, and came to this country in 1638. He was married in New Amsterdam, N. Y. (later named New York City) July 25, 1649 to Aefgy van Tienhoven. He established a home on the corner of Broadway and Wall Street. This site is now occupied by the Equitable Life Building. There are many records concerning him. He was the first Treasurer of New York City. He introduced the first tulips in America. Many items from the family are in Art Galleries or Museums as points of interest for the tourist to visit.



Maria of Utrecht, wife of Johan Van Oldenparneveldt is listening to the death sentence of her husband, being read by William, Lord of Stoutenburg. This painting hangs in the Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota, Florida.

What was probably the garden of his home became in 1718 the site of the First Presbyterian Church of New York City. This church was located on Wall Street between the present Nassau Street and Broadway and stood until 1748, when the second church was built on the same site and stood in the Stoutenburgh garden until 1844. Peter Stoutenburgh was an Elder of the Dutch Church 1698 - 1699, in which year on March 9th, he died at the age of 86. They had several children, but we are interested in Tobias.

TOBIAS STOUTENBURGH, the 6th child of Pieter and Aefgy (van Tienhoven) Stoutenburgh was baptized in New Amsterdam, New York, January 18, 1660 and died May 2, 1715. He was married on July 2, 1684 to Anneken van Rollegom, baptized July 15, 1665, the daughter of Jan Joosten van Rollegom, from Haerlem in Holland. They resided in the "Great House" which was surrounded by a large garden and orchard. It was located on Broadway and the present Liberty Street passes through this land. There were 12 children.

LUCAS or LUKE STOUTENBURGH, the 5th child of Tobias and Anneken (van Rollegom) Stoutenburgh was baptized September 20, 1691 in New York City. He was married twice, but this history is concerned only with his second marriage to Helena van Pelt, baptized in Brooklyn May 29, 1695, the daughter of Anthony and Helena (Joosten) van Pelt. They moved to Port Richmond, Staten Island, where the parents of Helena (van Pelt) Stoutenburgh resided.

ANTHONY STOUTENBOROUGH, as the name now began to be spelled, the son of Lucas and Helena (van Pelt) Stoutenborough was born about 1720 and died in 1793. He married July 26, 1745 "Mary Segang" in New Jersey. It is believed that this was a run away marriage. Mary "Segang" was Mary Seguin. She belonged to a French family of Huguenot antecedents. They had seven children.

CAPTAIN JOHN STOUTENBOROUGH, the eldest son of Anthony and Mary (Seguin) Stoutenborough was baptized September 1, 1754 and died May 6, 1839. He married Catherine Holmes, born October 19, 1765, died May 1, 1838, daughter of Daniel and Leah (Bowne) Holmes. They resided at Shrewsbury, Monmouth County, New Jersey and are buried in the Baptist Church yard at Holmdel, New Jersey. They had 9 children.

JOHN STOUTENBOROUGH, the second son of Captain John and Catherine (Holmes) Stoutenborough was born in Monmouth County, New Jersey, December 8, 1791 and died December 25, 1867. He helped the Schenck family load the covered wagons in preparation to move from New Jersey to Ohio. After they were loaded, he decided to go with them. They arrived in Franklin, Ohio June 22, 1815. He was married November 15, 1819 to Jane Schenck, born November 7, 1796 in Somerset County, New Jersey. She was the daughter of Garret G. Schenck and Jane (Van Kirk) Schenck.

When she was 10 years old, the family moved to Monmouth County, New Jersey. She died March 28, 1888 and both she and her husband are buried in Franklin, Ohio. They had 9 children, all born in Butler County, Ohio, seven sons and two daughters. Three sons: Henry, Daniel and James Schenck and one daughter Mary Jane (Wiliam B. Vail) remained in Ohio and four sons, Garret, John, Anthony and William H. and one daughter, Catherine (Nelson Long) went to Maroa, Macon County and DeWitt County, Illinois

John Butler Stoutenborough and Elizabeth (Butler) Stoutenborough

GARRET STOUTENBOROUGH son of John and Jane (Schenck) Stoutenborough was born in Butler County, Ohio, September 16, 1824 and died July 9, 1910 in Maroa, Illinois. He was married to Margaret T. Hankinson in Ohio on February 12, 1845. She was born in Warren County, Ohio, February 10, 1825 and died in Maroa, Illinois July 22, 1905. They were the parents of six children, Sarah Jane (Fruit), Mary Eleanor, James Hankinson, John L., William Baird and Frank. All are deceased and buried in Maroa Cemetery.

Garret and Margaret Stoutenborough with Mrs. Stoutenborough's sister and husband (James Shepherd Parker) came to Illinois from Ohio in 1854, driving through in a covered wagon. It took three weeks to make the trip. They settled on a farm the men had purchased earlier near Kenney, Illinois in Tunbridge Township. The farm was owned in 1954 by Garrett Fruit, grand-son of Mr. Garret Stoutenborough.

Garret Stoutenborough was a lover and breeder of fine horses, although his main occupation was farming and at his death he was the owner of numerous farms around Maroa and Kenney. He and his wife retired and moved to Maroa. Their home was later purchased by the late Dr. Wood.

MARY ELEANOR STOUTENBOROUGH, daughter of Garret and Margaret (Hankinson) Stoutenborough was born October 9, 1850. She married William Edward Schoby on December 3, 1885. To this union three children were born, Margaret, Charles W. and Aldora May.

Margaret Schoby, daughter of William Edward Schoby and Mary Eleanor (Stoutenborough) Schoby was born near Kenney, Illinois on January 15, 1887. She married Harry H. Hall on January 1, 1910. To this union three children were born, Lulu Eleanor, Harry Edward, who died in infancy, and Beulah Mary, who died in infancy.

Lulu Eleanor Hall, daughter of Harry H. Hall and Margaret (Schoby) Hall was born near Kenney on June 10, 1911. She married Henry A. Lippert on December 27, 1937. To this union five children have been born, Henry Edward, on November 5, 1938; Harry Andrew, May 11, 1940; Lulu Margaret, July 9, 1942; Otto Veith, January 3, 1944 and died December 3, 1948: and Mary Emma, May 14, 1950. They reside near Clinton, Illinois.

Aldora May Schoby, daughter of William Edward Schoby and Mary Eleanor (Stoutenborough) Schoby was born near Kenney, Illinois April 26, 1891. She married Otis B. Preston January 4, 1917. To this union one son, Howard Dale was born.

Howard Dale Preston, son of Otis B. Preston and Aldora May (Schoby) Preston was born August 17, 1920 near Kenney, Illinois. He married Helen Gaffron on August 29, 1940. To this union three children have been born, Mary Elizabeth on April 23, 1944: Larry Dale on April 26, 1947 and Martha Joan on October 3, 1953.

Mary Elizabeth married Orbie Mose and they have no children. Lany Dale married Donna Moore and they have a son, Brian. Martha Joan married Gary Burns and they have three daughters; Eve, Rachel and Rebekah.

Eve Ann married Dean Kranbeck, and they have a son, Dustin. Rachel married Wes Lawson, and they have two daughters, Madison and Jessica. Rebekah Burns Howard later married Mary Berry and they had a son, Howard David. Howard David married Wanda Burris, and they have a daughter named Wendy. Howard passed away on August 4,2001

JAMES HANKINSON STOUTENBOROUGH, son of Garret and Margaret (Hankinson) Stoutenborough was born January 16, 1854 and died January 23, 1932. On February 17, 1880 he married Ella Baird. To this union four children were born, but only one, Frank B., was still living in 1954.

Frank B. Stoutenborough, son of James H. and Ella (Baird) Stoutenborough was born July 13, 1885. On February 12, 1908 he married Ethel Grady. To this union two daughters, Mildred and Evelyn were born.

Mildred Stoutenborough, daughter of Frank B. and Ethel (Grady) Stoutenborough, was born August 7, 1909. On December 10, 1927, she married Walter W. Gardner. To this union were born four children: Betty Charlene, born January 9, 1929 and married to William Mahoney. To this union one son, John S. Mahoney was born August 4, 1952. She later married Thomas Bickel. He is a Civil Engineer for the Illinois Central Railroad and they live in Clinton, Illinois in1954. GERALD THOMAS was born April 25, 1932. On April 1, 1951, he married Sharon Woizeski. To this union one daughter, Stephenia Jo was born March 30, 1952 and one son, Stephen Thomas was born December 29, 1953. They live in Clinton and he was a telegraph operator for the Illinois Central

Railroad in 1954; EDWARD FRANK was born October 18, 1936. He graduated from Clinton High School in the class of 1954 and has joined the Naval Reserve; and JEAN ANN, born October 26, 1952.

Evelyn Stoutenborough, daughter of Frank B. and Ethel (Grady) Stoutenborough, was born March 25, 1915. On December 30, 1933, she married Verniel C. Westerman. To this union one son, DONALD FRANK was born September 23, 1937, who will be a senior at Maroa High School in September, 1954; and daughter, BETTY JOAN, born November 6, 1941, attends the Maroa Grade School. They reside on a farm West of Maroa.

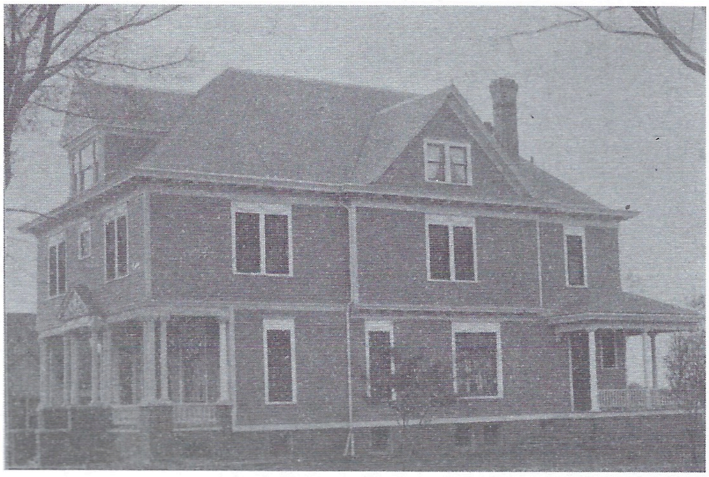
JOHN L. STOUTENBOROUGH, the second son and fourth child of Garret and Margaret (Hankinson) Stoutenborough, was born in DeWitt bounty, Illinois, Sept. 14,1856. He was married to Luella Miller of Hallsville on December 1, 1881. To this union six children were born: Ralph, born Feb. 7, 1883 and died at the age of ten; twins William Aaron and Garrett Earl, Fannie, Helen, Margaret and Robert.

John L. Stoutenborough, like his father, farmed and he too bred fine horses and at one time had a race track on his farm 2 miles southwest from Maroa. He invented "The King Tilting Gate," which was used by many farmers in the horse and buggy days. He was interested in the welfare and education of his children and his neighbors' children and was the promoter in organizing the Parker School District and building the school. He served as director for many years.

He and Mrs. Stoutenborough were long faithful members of the Maroa Christian Church, where he served on the board. In later years he wrote many poems, which his family cherish. He and his wife retired from the farm and moved to Maroa in 1920. After the death of his wife on September 27, 1926, his daughter Helen and family moved to his home to care for him. In 1941, they moved back to the farm home where he died on June 23, 1942.

Dr. William Aaron Stoutenborough was born August 21, 1885 near Maroa. He was an eye specialist with offices at 21 East State St., Columbus, Ohio. He died January 19, 1953 in Columbus and was buried in Maroa. He was married to Mabel Boulton of Mechanicsburg, Ohio in 1919. They have one daughter, Charlene, born in North Lewisburg, Ohio, July 27, 1915. She married Robert Hoelcher. They have one son, Robert Aaron Hoelcher, born in Columbus, Ohio June 6, 1945. They now live in Ardmore, Penn.

Garrett Earl Stoutenborough was bom August 21,1885, near Maroa. He was a former accountant and farmer. He married Pearl Grady in 1918. They had one son, Robert Earl, born near Maroa, Illinois, on September 20,1916. He married Betty Williams of Decatur, September 8, 1940. They have one son, Douglas Heywood, born in Decatur, Illinois, December 18,1944. They reside on the farm belonging to G. Earl Stoutenborough, north of Maroa, Illlmois.



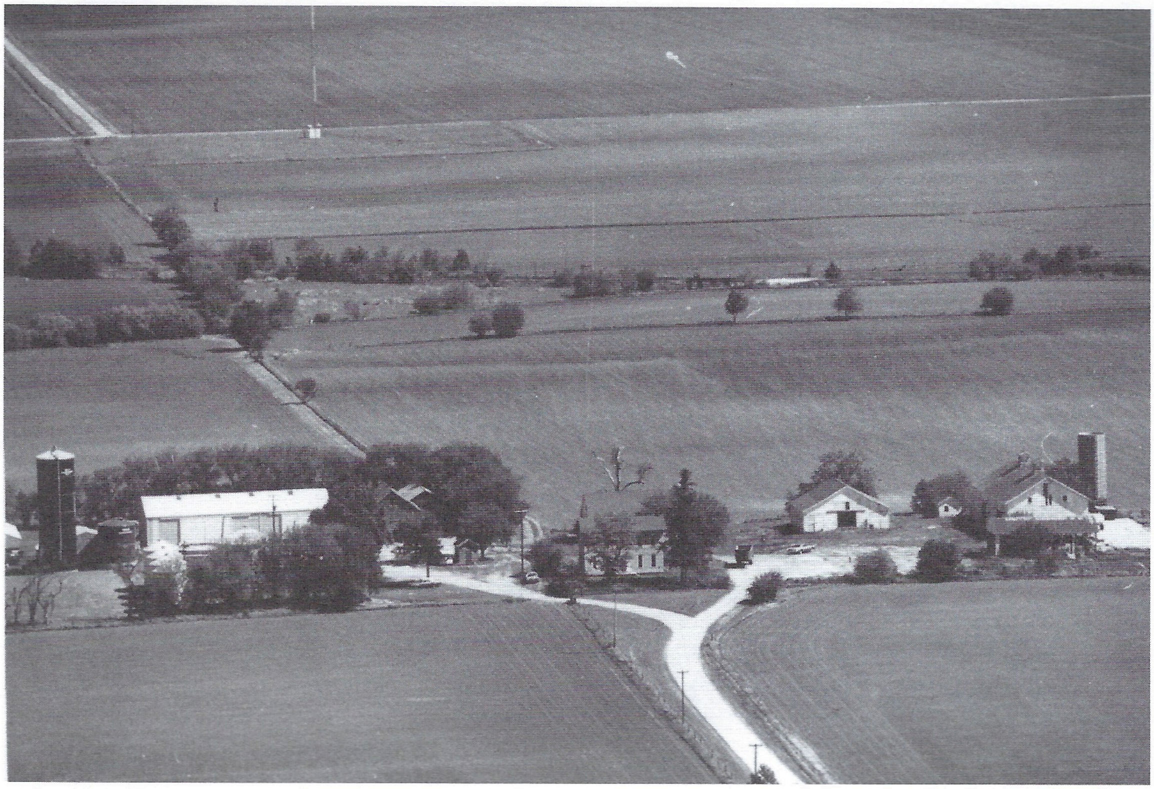
Palatial residence of James H Stoutenborough 329 West Washington Street (Erected in 1910). Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.

Robert died in 1976, and Betty is now a resident of Lincoln Manor Nursing Home in Decatur. Douglas married a Decatur girl and lives in Decatur, Illinois.

Fannie Stoutenborough was born near Maroa January 11, 1890. She married Raymond Shaw in 1910. Mr. Shaw died in November 1951. They have one daughter, Eleanor, born near Maroa August 16, 1913. She lives in Decatur, Illinois.

Helen Stoutenborough was born near Maroa August 31, 1895. She was married to John Hoffman, Jr. in 1918. They live on and own the farm formerly owned and occupied by Mrs. Hoffman's parents. The family were all reared on this farm and it has been in the family since 1884. They have one son, John L. born near Maroa, Illinois February 4, 1922. On June 5, 1943 he married Irene Olsen of Decatur, Illinois. They have four children: John L., Jr., born July 3, 1945; Thomas Rodgers, born May 31, 1947; Carol Lynn, born July 1, 1948, who were born in Decatur and Macon County Hospital; and Jeffrey Scott, born Feb. 16, 1953 in Rock Island, Illinois. The family resides in Rock Island and he is a salesman for Illinois Contractors' Machinery, Inc. John L. served as 1st Lt. in Air Corp in World War II overseas.

Robert Stoutenborough was born near Maroa October 12, 1900. He was married to Mary F. Conover June 28, 1922. He is in the Insurance and Real Estate business in Maroa. They have one son, William Robert, born August 1, 1924. He married Dorothy Arnett of Towanda, Illinois April 9, 1949. They have three daughters, Renee born September 28, 1950: Roxanne, born September 9, 1951; and Mary Kathryn, born February 9, 1953. They reside in Maroa and he is in business with his father. He served as 1st Sergeant overseas in World War II.



James P. Stoutenborough farm. The house was moved when the Hwy 51 was made into four lanes. The current highway runs approximately along the north south row visible there.

WILLIAM BAIRD STOUTENBOROUGH, son of Garret and Margaret (Hankinson) Stoutenborough was born April 13, 1858. He died on July 4, 1924. On January 11, 1882 he married Harriet Miller, born April 2, 1862, and died on September 24, 1952. To this union four children were born, Maude, Raymond, Elva, and Mary Margaret.

Maude May Stoutenborough, first child of William B. and Harriet Stoutenborough was born August 20, 1883. She was married to A. Henry Allen in 1901. He died in August 1953. She lives in Fresno, California. Four children were born to this union. PAUL was born September 16, 1903. He and his wife, Ann, have two sons, Paul Henry and Robert Stoutenborough. They live in Bakersfield, California. NEDRA MARGARET was born December 25, 1907. CYNTHIA MAUDE was born January 15, 1909. She was married to Walter Erwin and they have one daughter, Juanita. They live in Alameda, California. ELVA LA VERNE was born October 3, 1911. She is married to George Terzain and they have one daughter, Michele. They reside in Oakland, California.

Raymond Stoutenborough, the second child born to William B. and Harriet M. Stoutenborough was born October 13, 1886. He was married on August 9, 1910 to Frances May Kennedy, born March 3, 1890. They live in Decatur, Illinois. To this union ten children were born. RAYMOND ROSS, born December 23, 1911. On August 3, 1947 he married Mary Elizabeth Davidson born December 10, 1928. They live in Decatur, Illinois. Three children were born to this union: Linda Lou born April 6, 1948; Carol Ann born August 19, 1949, and Cathy Sue born August 1, 1952. DALE WOODROW was born May 29, 1913 and lives in Decatur, Illinois. EDWIN ALLEN born on January 8, 1915. On July 8, 1944 he was married to Eileen Clarke who was born on November 21, 1916. He is in Germany. RICHARD FRANCIS was born February 24, 1916 and on March 17, 1945 he was married to Catharine Delillis Daily, born May 4, 1922. They are the parents of four children: twins, Joanne and Suzanne born February 21, 1946, Richard William born October 22, 1949 and Nancy Ellen born March 23, 1951. They live in Taylorville, Illinois. MARGARET JUNE was born September 4, 1917. On June 30, 1939 she married William Edgar Cline, who was born September 5, 1913. They have one son, William Edgar, Jr. born April 15, 1940. They live in Pendleton, Oregon. JAMES ARTHUR was born February 23, 1920 and was married on August 20, 1947 to Rowena Miller who was born November 20, 1923. They have one child, a daughter, Bobetta, born June 15, 1950. They live in Decatur, Illinois. WILLIAM BAIRD, born October 5, 1922. He is in Danville, Illinois. BETTY JEANNE, born March 7, 1925 and on December 12, 1948 married James Howard Stephens, born July 6, 1916. Two children were born to this union: James Francis on August 10, 1949 and Judith Rae on November 19, 1950. Their home is in Decatur, Illinois. THOMAS DAVID was born September 3, 1927 and is in Korea. MARY FRANCES was born June 23, 1930 and lives in Decatur, Illinois.

Elva Montgomery Stoutenborough, third child of William B. and Harriet M. Stoutenborough, was born January 11, 1889. She was married in 1904 to Emory Birks. To this union one son, Wayne Birks, was born December 26, 1905. She later married James Norfolk Foster in 1915 and lives in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Mary Margaret Stoutenborough, fourth child of William Baird and Harriet M. Stoutenborough was born January 17, 1893. She was married to Harmon E. Likens in 1914. He died in 1932. She lives in Decatur, Illinois

JOHN STOUTENBOROUGH, son of John and Jane (Schenck) Stoutenborough was born in Butler County, Ohio, February 20, 1829, and died in April, 1909. He married Elizabeth Butler in Ohio in 1851. They came to Illinois in 1863. To this union seven children were born: Schenck, who died in infancy; Anna, who died in infancy; Mary Jane, John Butler, Ella, who died when 20 years old; Catherine Elizabeth and Charles H.

MARY JANE STOUTENBOROUGH (known as Jennie), daughter of John and Elizabeth (Butler) Stoutenborough, was born in Butler County, Ohio on September 13, 1853. When she was 10 years old, she came with her parents in a covered wagon to Illinois. She was married to Peter Koons on December 26, 1872. She died August 12, 1946. To this union was born one son, Frank, who married Viola Morey and four daughters: Hattie M.; Luella, who was married to William B. Cooper; Grace, who married George Conover; and Laura, who died March 16, 1937, was married to Daniel W. Davis. To this union two daughters were born: Nellie, who was married to Phillip G. Redmon, and to this union one daughter, Mary Jane was born, who died in infancy, and Maude I.

JOHN BUTLER STOUTENBOROUGH, son of John and Elizabeth (Butler) Stoutenborough was born July 28, 1855 and died on February 3, 1930. In February 1880, he married Laura Baird, born in 1856 and died October 15, 1926. To this union two sons were born: Norman Bair, and Ernest Lytton.

Norman Baird Stoutenborough, son of John B. and Laura (Baird) Stoutenborough, was born January 27, 1881 and died November 7, 1950. On September 5, 1911, he married Bernice Crocker. To this union two daughters were born: HELEN KATHRYN, on August 18, 1915 and ELIZABETH LOUISE on September 24, 1913. On June 22, 1940, she married William Hobart Crabtree. To this union one son, Thomas Philbrook, was born September 7, 1942, and one daughter, Carol Ann, was born June 5, 1945. They reside on a farm west of Forsyth, Illinois.

Ernest L. Stoutenborough, son of John B. and Laura (Baird) Stoutenborough, was born January 5, 1885. On September 12, 1911, he married Bessie May Conover, who died September 28, 1949. To this union one son and daughter were born. JOHN CONOVER was born October 30, 1913. On December 31, 1942, he married Gretchan Novack. They have one daughter Susanne Gwen, born November 25, 1943. SUZANNE was born May 4, 1917. On April 11, 1941, she married Bernard L. Miller. They have one son, John Stephen, born February 1, 1945. On March 25, 1952 Ernest L. Stoutenborough married Blanche Fry.

CATHERINE ELIZABETH STOUTENBOROUGH (known as Libby) daughter of John and Elizabeth (Butler) Stoutenborough was born November 22, 1865 and died September 12, 1930. On December 27, 1883 she married Will Potter. To this union five children were born: Nellie, who died in infancy; Aleita Leona (Morris), William Lynn, Charles Everett, deceased, and Elizabeth Nadine (McCallum) deceased.

Lynn Potter, son of Will and Libby (Stoutenborough) Potter was born May 31, 1891. On June 14, 1911 he married Anna Alverda Priddy. One daughter, Anna Elizabeth (Betty) was born May 24, 1916. On April 25, 1940 she married Charles John Erspamer. Two daughters have been born to them, Delores Anne on October 16, 1941 and Fortuna Marie on April 26, 1954.

ANTHONY STOUTENBOROUGH, son of John and Jane (Schenck) Stoutenborough, was born in Butler County, Ohio May 6, 1832 and died April 29, 1906. He came to Maroa, Illinois and on January 21, 1863 he married Sarah Jane Parker, born November 10, 1843, daughter of James Shepherd Parker and Rachel Hankinson Parker. They had four sons: James Parker, John Schenck, Charles William and Garrett, who died when he was 7 years old.

JAMES PARKER STOUTENBOROUGH, son of Anthony and Sarah Jane (Parker) Stoutenborough was born on a farm near Maroa August 5, 1865. On April 9, 1891, he married Gertrude Barr. To this union one son, Roy Barr was born. Gertrude (Barr) Stoutenborough died January 20, 1916. On December 29, 1919, James P. Stoutenborough married Alta Lyman. She died November 28, 1933. To this union three children were born: James P. Jr., Alta Viola, died in infancy, and Tirrell L. Mr. Stoutenborough was interested in farming all of his life. In 1897 he began to raise registered Herefords. At his death, his son Roy continued and the family has raised Herefords continuously since 1897. James P. Stoutenborough died August 3, 1939 and was buried on his 74th birthday.

Roy Barr Stoutenborough, son of James P. and Gertrude (Barr) Stoutenborough was born April 8, 1904. On October 14, 1937 he married Marthalouise Horton, daughter of Joseph T. Horton and Lou Alma (Watson) Horton, of Albuquerque, New Mexico. To this union three children have been born: Roy Barr, Jr., born September 2, 1938, Adrienne Joyce, born September 13, 1940, and Carol Jean, born July 30, 1943. The family lives in Maroa, Illinois and Roy B. Stoutenborough farms his mother's farm near Argenta, Illinois.

James Parker Stoutenborough, Jr., son of James P. and Alta (Lyman) Stoutenborough, was born August 30, 1921. On June 25, 1944 he married Joan Whitten of Decatur, Illinois. To this union, one daughter, Tirrell Jane, was born September 27, 1945. They now reside in Flint, Michigan where he is in religious work.

Tirrell Lyman Stoutenborough, daughter of James P. and Alta (Lyman) Stoutenborough, was born September 7, 1924. On January 15, 1952 she married Rev. Martin Wayne Van Gelderen. To this union one son, Martin Wayne, Jr., was born October 27, 1953. He is a Baptist minister and they make their home in Miami, Florida.

JOHN SCHENCK STOUTENBOROUH, son of Anthony and Sara Jane (Parker) Stoutenborough was born February 18, 1867 and died December 6, 1953. On March 28, 1895 he married Lilian Hanes, born October 21, 1868 and died January 8, 1934. One son is living, George, born July 1, 1896. On December 29, 1920 he married Iona Carney and they reside in Maroa.

CHARLES WILLIAM STOUTENBOROUGH, son of Anthony and Sara Jane (Parker) Stoutenborough was born June 3, 1872 and died March 18, 1949. On June 14, 1894 he married Lucy James. To this union three sons were born: Anthony J. February 3, 1896 and married to Lena Malone on December 31, 1920; Harold E., and Russell C.

Charles, Barbara and Thomas in 1954

Harold E. Stoutenborough, son of Charles W. and Lucy (James) Stoutenborough was born June 5, 1898. On December 21, 1920 he married Helen Querfeld. One daughter, Patricia Ann was born December 16, 1931 and on November 28, 1953 she married Kenneth W. Smith. They have no children. They lived on Patricia parent's farm until August 1988, when they moved to Decatur.

RUSSELL C. STOUTENBOROUGH, son of Charles W. and Lucy (James) Stoutenborough was born on April 2,1901. On October 24,1923, he married Bernice Davis. They lived in Decatur, Illinois. Both are deceased. Two children were born to this union. BETTY LOU was born on September 3,1925 and on December 22,1946 she married Charles L. Ritchie. They had two children. Stephen A. was born October 9, 1949, and a daughter Leslie Jane was born October 14,1952. They live in Springfield, Illinois. Stephen has two children: Kimbery A. and Christopher Andrew. Leslie has two children: Johnathon Grant and Sarah Jane.

CHARLES GRANT was born on May 20, 1929, and on November 27,1949, he married Barbara C. Troy. To this union three sons were born. Thomas Charles born July 21,1953, Richard Lee born February 20,1956 and died in 1989, and James Russell born September 10,1958. Thomas has two sons; Drew James and Kyle Anthony. James has three sons; Troy Grant, Travis Ross, and Tyler James.

William H. Stoutenborough, son of John and Jane (Schenck) Stoutenborough, was born in Butler County, Ohio, September 17, 1836 and died in 1920. He first married Mary Cummings in 1861. To this union one son, William, was born. He is now deceased. He later married Katherine C. Schenck who was born in 1847 and died in 1907. To this union three children were born: Lillian, who married Charles Schenck; Hattie, now Mrs. J. B. Patterson and living in Los Angeles, California, and Harry.

HARRY STOUTENBOROUGH, son of William H. and Katherine (Schenck) Stoutenborough, was born in 1873 and died in 1914. He married Bertha Crossman and to this union four children were born: DOROTHY KATHERINE (Snyder) was born in 1903 and lives in Garden Grove, California. She has two sons, Lester and Harry who is married and has one daughter, Betty Carroll. GLENN, was born in 1904 and married Sara Louise Baird. They live in Springfield, Illinois, and have three children: Robert Glenn, who is married to Mary Hursh and they have two children, Linda Sue, and Glenn Joseph; William J. who is not married and lives in Decatur, Illinois; and Patsy Ann, who is married to Richard Houk. MILDRED HATTIE, who was born in 1905 and married Howard Craig and they have one son, John. BERNARD DALE was born in 1908 and lives in Peoria, Illinois. He was married first to Nancy Lockheid and by this union has one daughter, Sally Jo. He later married Alvena Brady and they have one son, Roy, whom is married to Ada Ault.

GARRETT EARL STOUTENBOROUGH FAMILY
Garrett Earl Stoutenborough was bom August 21,1885, near Maroa. He was a former accountant and farmer. He married Pearl Grady in 1918. They had one son, Robert Earl, born near Maroa, Illinois, on September 20,1916. He married Betty Williams of Decatur, September 8, 1940. They have one son, Douglas Heywood, born in Decatur, Illinois, December 18,1944. They reside on the farm belonging to G. Earl Stoutenborough, north of Maroa, Illlmois.

Robert died in 1976, and Betty is now a resident of Lincoln Manor

Fine Home of J. P. Stoutenborough at 300 West Main Street recently remodeled (in 1910) Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.

Nursing Home in Decatur. Douglas married a Decatur girl and lives in Decatur, Illinois.

ROBERT STOUTENBOROUGH, son of John and Luella Miller Stoutenborough, was born near Maroa on October 12, 1900. He was married to Mary F. Conover on June 28, 1922. He is in the Real Estate business in Maroa. Mary died on March 25,1978. Robert later married Emma Swope. Robert died on December 6, 1993. Emma died in 2001.

To the union of Robert and Mary one son, William Robert, was born on August 1, 1924. William married Dorothy Amett of Towanda, Illinois, on April 9,1949. To this union four daughters were bom.

The Stoutenborough farm in 1901. Today the fifth generation is living in the house that Charles Stoutenborough built.

Renee bom in 1950 and died in 1995. She was married to G. Patton Penhallegon, and they had one son named Patton.

Roxanne was bom in 1951. Her husband was James Grider and they had three sons; William, Nicholas, and Andrew. James died and Roxanne married Ralph Stoeckel.

Mary K. (Kit) was born in 1953. Her husband is Peter J. Paulin and they have two
sons; Prescott and Parker.

Tracy was born in 1959. Her husband is Dr. Thomas Scherer.

William was in business with his father from 1948 to 1994 when he retired and he and his wife moved to Forsyth, Illinois.

William (Bill) served as a 1st Sergeant overseas in World War II.

EVELYN STOUTENBOROUGH

Evelyn Stoutenborough, daughter of Frank B. and Ethel (Grady) Stoutenborough, was bom on March 25,1915. On December 30,1933, she married Verniel C. Westerman. Verniel passed away on January 2, 2004. To this union one son, Donald Frank was born September 23,1937, and a daughter Betty Jaon, born on November 6,1941. Both children graduated from Maroa-Forsyth High School. They resided on a farm West of Maroa.

Donald married Elsie Hockaday on June 24,1956, and they reside on East Hickory Point Road, Decatur. Don farms in the northern part of Macon County. They are the parents of three daughters, Cindie, Beth, and Amy. Cindie (Dave) Zelhart and they live near Maroa. Their children are Matthew and Marie. Beth (Bob) Crose who live in Forsyth. Their children are Sarah and Rachel. Amy (Toby) Hyde who live in Beason and their children are Zachary and Bridgette.

Betty Birge resides in Maroa and she has two children. A daughter, Kimberly of Maroa. and Jim (Diane)Birge of Mt. Pulaski.

ROY BARR STOUTENBOROUGH

Special awards from the Centennial, Roy B. Stoutenborough Family. They won third place in "Best Dressed Family." Left to Right: Mrs Stoutenborough, Roy B Stoutenborough, Carol Jean, Barr and Adrienne.

Roy Barr Stoutenborough, son of James Parker and Gertrude (Barr) Stoutenborough was born April 8,1904. On October 14, 1937 Roy B. married Marthalouise (Horton), daughter of Joseph T. Horton and Lou Alma (Watson) Horton, of Albuquerque, New Mexico. To this union three children have been born, Roy Barr, Jr., born September 2,1938 in Decatur, IL, Adrienne Joyce, born September 13,1940 in Decatur, IL, and Carol Jean, born July 30,1943 in Decatur, IL. The family lives in Maroa, IL. Roy B. Stoutenborough farms his mother's farm near Argenta, Illinois. Marthalouise Stoutenborough died on July 16,1962 in Decatur, IL., at 54 years of age. Roy Barr Stoutenborough died on August 31,1974 in Decatur, Illinois, he was 70 years of age. Roy B. died on his grandson's Mark Alan Haenny's 14th birthday.On June 29,1963 Roy Barr, Jr., married Harriet Jean (Schultz) daughter of Harry John Schultz and Nell Madeline (Dunn) Shultz in the Maroa Christian Church, Maroa, IL. Harriet was born October 6,1940. To this union one child has been born, Jodi Kay, born December 6,1974. A daughter was born to Jodi Kay on October 12,1997, Taylor Jean Overheul. Jodi Kay is employed by Decatur Memorial Hospital. The Barr Stoutenborough family resides in the Blue

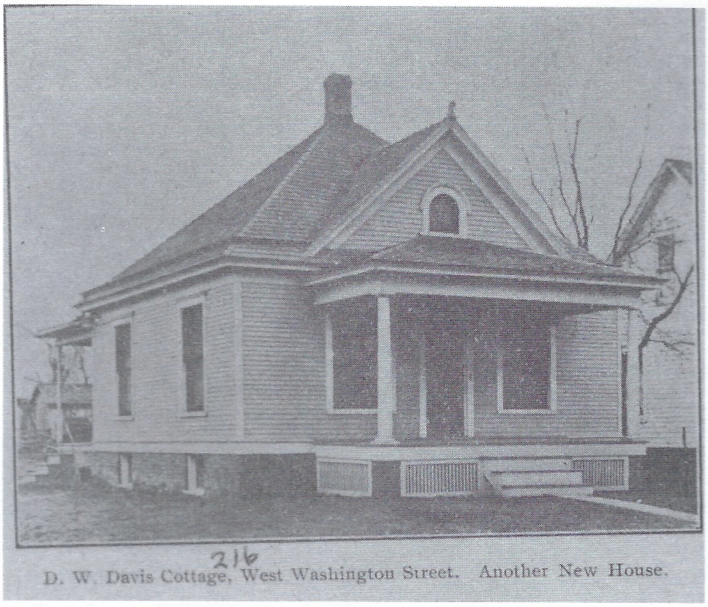
Mound, IL area. Roy Barr, Jr., is employed by ICI Midwest, Decatur, Illinois.

On October 4,1959 Adrienne Joyce married Robert Eugene Haenny son of Eugene Vernon Haenny and Goldie Marie (Carlton) Haenny in the Maroa Christian Church, Maroa, Illinois. Robert Eugene was born March 31,1939 in Old Ripley, Illinois. To this union three children have been born. Mark Alan, August 31, 1960, Bruce Eugene, June 6, 1962, and Darren James, August 5, 1965. Darren James Haenny was born 100 years from the date that his great grandfather James Parker Stoutenborough was born, August 5, 1865. The Robert Haenny family resides in Maroa, IL. Robert Eugene is owner of Haenny Crop Insurance, Maroa, Illinois.

Martha Louise & Roy Stoutenborough

Mark Alan graduated from Maroa-Forsyth High School, received his Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern Illinois University and his Juris Doctorate from Drake University, in Des Moines, Iowa. On September 23,1989 Mark Alan married Stephanie Sue (Fancher) daughter of George Steven Fancher and Sydney Ann (Toynton) Fancher in Ft. Collins, Colorado. Stephanie Sue was born August 7,1962. To this union three children have been born. Emily Jo, November 2, 1991, twin daughters Claire Louise and Grace Margaret, January 5, 1999. The Mark Haenny family resides in Loveland, Colorado. Mark Alan is employed with Wells Fargo Bank, Ft. Collins, Colorado. Stephanie is employed as a structural engineer with Rocla Concrete Tie, Inc. in Denver, Colorado.

Benjamin F. Shipley, born 1850, came to Maroa from Vandalia in 1886 and was the Superintendent of Schools for seven or eight years. He married Dora Lee and after her death, he married Adah Graham. They had a daughter, Lucile. In 1889, Mr. Shipley was admitted to the bar and practiced law in Maroa until his death in 1918. He was city attorney of Maroa 25 years, and served as president of the School Board several terms.



D. W. Davis Cottage, 216 West Washington Street. Another New House.

D. W. Davis Cottage 216 West Washington Street. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.

Bruce Eugene graduated from Maroa-Forsyth High School and received his Bachelor of Science degree from Illinois State University. On April 15, 1995 Bruce Eugene married Lori Lynn (Feuerstein) daughter of Robert Richard Feuerstein and Linda Darlene (Carter) Feuerstein in Scottsdale, Arizona. Lori Lynn was born May 25, 1962. To this union two children have been born. Nicholas Spencer October 1, 1996 and Allison Grace November 19, 1998. The Bruce Haenny family resides in Scottsdale, Arizona and Bruce Eugene is employed with Arthur Porter Construction Company, Scottsdale, AZ.

Darren James graduated from Maroa-Forsyth High School and received his Bachelor of Science degree from Illinois State University. On May 21,1994 Darren James married Janice Lea (Westlake) daughter of Wendell Wayne Westlake and Betty Joan (Shear) Westlake in Fountain Hills, AZ. Janice Lea was born August 20, 1959. To this union one son has been born. Parker James, September 15,1999. Parker James was

Special awards from the Centennial, John and Sharon Moyer, won first prize in Children's Parade (Pre-School class) named after his great-great grandfather James Parker Stoutenborough. The Darren Haenny family resides in the Sedona, AZ area. Darren and his wife, Janice, own and operate the Stoneman Lake Lodge Bed and Breakfast in Stoneman Lake, AZ. Darren and his wife, Janice, also own Wolf Environmental, Sedona, AZ.

On April 2, 1961 Carol Jean married Jerry Lee Willoughby son of Orville Eugene Willoughby and Lavon Mildred (Bray) Willoughby in the Maroa Christian Church, Maroa, IL. Jerry Lee was born October 29, 1940. They were married in the Maroa Christian Church, Maroa, IL. To this union three children have been born: Shelley Lorraine, January 13, 1962, Michael Lee, October 16, 1963, and Troy Dwayne, July 22, 1969. The Jerry Willoughby family resides in Clinton, IL. Jerry Lee is employed by Moore Wallace, Clinton, Illinois.

On February 17, 1979 Shelley Lorraine married David Brian Ward. To this union two children have been born: Lucas David, July 30, 1979 and Lindsey Michelle, June 28, 1986. On May 25, 2002 Shelley Lorraine married Todd Loren Shaw son of William Loren Shaw and Lillian Emogene (Bray) Shaw in Clinton, IL. Todd was born on February 1, 1966. They were married in Clinton, IL. No children have been born to this union. The Todd Shaw family resides in Clinton, IL. and Shelley is employed with Moore Wallace, Clinton, Illinois.

On November 3, 1989 Michael Lee married Janette Michelle (Dolly) daughter of Keith Warren Dolly and Sharon Ann (Overy) Dolly. Janette Michelle was born on October 23, 1968. To this union two children have been born: Nolan Michael, February 4, 1992 and Sara Michelle, August 14, 1997. The Michael Willoughby family resides in Clinton, Illinois. Michael Lee is employed with the City of Clinton, Clinton, IL.

On February 21, 1998 Troy Dwayne married Lori Annette (Rojanski) daughter of Catherine Elaine (Smith). Lori Annette was born April 8,1970. To this union two children have been born: Hannah Christine, February 9, 2000 and Ethan Roy, December 31, 2003. The Troy Willoughby family resides in Clinton, IL. Troy Dwayne is employed with Coca-Cola Company, Decatur, IL.

TIMOTHY WALLER FAMILY

Timothy Waller and his wife, Julia, brought their family of five children, Carrie, Flora, Ella, Timothy, Jr., and Bruce, from Princeton, Ohio, to Maroa November 18,1874. They built a home on the corner where the Sinclair Station stands. The house still remains on the lot just south of the station. Timothy, Jr. was killed at the age of twenty-one but the rest of the family lived here for many years.

Carrie, the first daughter, was born in 1860. She married Charles Schenck.

Carrie Waller- was married to Charles Schenck.

Flora was born in 1861. She married Nathan Crouch, who was born in Chicago in 1853 and came to Macon County when he was about fifteen years old. His father, John C. Crouch, was a State Veterinarian. The only son of Mr. and Mrs. Crouch, Rolla 0., is a practicing dentist in Maroa. He has two sons and five grandchildren. Nathan Crouch died in 1933 and his wife in 1922.

Ella (1863-1936) was the wife of Frank Potter, who was born to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Potter in Maroa, November 23, 1858. Their son, Bruce, lives in Monrovia, California. His wife was Nettie Ferree. They have one daughter. Mr. Frank Potter was a contractor and built many of the homes in Maroa. He died in 1932.

Mrs. George Waller, Charter treasurer of the High School PTA

Bruce was born in 1867. His wife, Martha Wykoff, was born west of Maroa in 1869. Their children are George, Fred and Phillip. There are five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Mr. Waller died in 1950. Mrs. Waller survives as of the centennial and was eighty-five years old.

THE WIKOFF FAMILY

Lumuel Wikoff and Sarah Wikoff circa 1900

Lemuel Wikoff was born in Butler County, Ohio, January 13, 1834 and died March 1, 1907. His family was of Hollander descent. His ancestors came to America in the seventeenth century, settling in New Amsterdam on the Long Island side. The ancestral home in New Amsterdam was built in 1656. This home is still standing and contains much of the old furniture.

William Potter was born in Ohio in 1839. He came to Macon County in 1850 and settled near the present site of Maroa. He married Lydia Baird and they had one daughter, Naomi (Stivers). Mr. Potter was a carpenter by trade. He died in 1914.

Lemuel Wikoff's grandfather was a New Jersey farmer and was closely connected with the Revolutionary War. Lemuel Wikoff's father was born in New Jersey and united in marriage to Vashti Ireton. To this union were born five sons. After her death he married Ann Henderson, also of New Jersey. To this union were born seven sons and two daughters: Garrett, Augusta, Gertrude, Jonathan, Peter, John, Hudson, LEMUEL, and Mary Ann.

At the age of eleven years Lemuel Wikoff was left an orphan. He then made his home with two brothers.

In 1854 Lemuel Wikoff came to Illinois and located in Sangamon County where he rented and farmed for three years. In 1857 he came to Decatur, Illinois, and worked for his brother-in-law in dairy farming. After three months he bought out the business and followed dairy farming for three years. In 1863 he moved to DeWitt County and rented a farm for two years. He then returned to Macon County and purchased 80 acres of land five and one-half miles southwest of Maroa and soon bought a tract of 120 acres in Maroa Township. Lemuel Wikoff lived on the farm until 1891 when he retired and moved to Maroa. He was successful and added to his original farm of 80 acres, and at the time of his death in December, 1914, he had accumulated 900 acres of land in Macon County and 100 acres in Louisiana.

On November 27, 1856 at Decatur, Illinois, Lemuel Wikoff was united in marriage to Miss Sarah A. Wikoff, daughter of Peter and Eliza Wikoff. She was born in Ohio in March 1836. To this union were born one daughter and five sons, Olive L., Richard B., James E., Charles W., William A. and Fred 0. Wikoff.

Lemuel Wikoff was one of seven men who organized the Citizen's Bank of Maroa. He also assisted in promoting the erection of the Emery Methodist Church four miles south of Maroa. He was chairman of the building committee during the erection of the old Methodist Church in Maroa, and a member of the committee that had charge of the building of the present Methodist Church in Maroa. He was a trustee of the church society, and custodian of its deeds and records until the time of his death.

William Jasper Jones, born in 1827, married Catherine Hermetet, who was born in 1838. They lived on a farm in Brown County, Illinois for several years before moving to Maroa Township in 1872. They bought a farm two miles east and two miles south of Maroa and spent the rest of their lives there. Of their eight children, two were alive in 1954: Lucy, the former music teacher, and William, a painter. Mr. Jones died in 1900 and his wife in 1918.

William F. Bridgman was born in Tennessee in 1832 and came to Jacksonville, Illinois in 1852. He married Elizabeth Jane Williamson in 1855. They were the parents of seven children, the three daughters having been residents of Maroa. They were Lou (Patterson), Eva (Long), and Anna (Martinie). Mr. Bridgman lived in Maroa several years but died in the I. 0. 0. F. Home in Mattoon in 1932, shortly before his one-hundredth birthday anniversary.

Lemuel Wikoff served three terms as commissioner of highways, and also served as a member of the school board.
Lemuel and Sarah A. Wikoff are buried in Maroa Cemetery.

OLIVE L. WIKOFF, was the eldest child of Lemuel and Sarah Wikoff. She was born September 7, 1857 in Decatur, Illinois, later moved with her parents to Maroa Township, where she grew up, attending schools near Maroa. She was married to Alvin Lyman, a native of Farmingdale, Illinois in 1882. They settled near Maroa and lived in that vicinity until retiring in 1920, moving to Forsyth and later to Decatur, Illinois. Mrs. Olive Lyman passed away July 21, 1925, after a lingering illness, and Mr. Alvin Lyman passed away in June, 1926. They were the parents of four children: Laura, Charles L., Earl W. and Vera.

Laura Lyman married Harry Grant, both having passed away in California, where the family lived. Their three children, Harold, Marian and Donald still live in the west.

Charles L. Lyman married Ivy Lehman of Forsyth, Illinois, in April, 1905. They have three daughters: Maxine L., married J. E. Pakgrove in 1950 and lives in Washington, D. C.; C. Rhonetta, married Morris M. Rockwell in 1935 and lives in Arlington, Virginia. They have one daughter, Patricia Ann, married to James H. Clarkin in January, 1949. To this union one son Mike, was born in 1953. They live in Falls Church, Virginia. Mildred E. married

Eldon R. Berry in February, 1929, and they live in Decatur, Illinois. They have two sons; a daughter, Nancy Lee, died in infancy. Richard L. Berry, the well known magician "Marko," married Phyllis Phipps in February, 1950. They have two children: Mark R., born in July, 1952, and Karen Kay, born in October, 1953. Richard is in business with his father, who owns the Berry Construction Co. Corporal Gerald T. Berry married Mary MacGuire of Springfield in October, 1953. He is in the 167th Inf. at Fort Lewis, Washington. They have a daughter, Kathy, born in 1954.

Earl W. Lyman, married Lois Leiter of Maroa, September 5, 1908. They have one son, Walter A., who married Teletha Lapp, June 19, 1951, and they have one son, Richard, born in 1953. All live in Decatur, Illinois.

Vera Lyman married Clarence J. Hill of Decatur, in February, 1913. They have two children. Mary Ellen, married to Melvin Long, January, 1943, and live in Champaign, Illinois with their three children: Kathy, Melvin, Jr., and Patricia Ann. Clarence J. Jr. married Maxine Thomson in October, 1945, and have one child, Debbie Ann, born in 1949, and they live in Decatur, Illinois. Clarence Jr. is a veteran of World War II, serving overseas for two years.

RICHARD B. WIKOFF was born in Decatur, Illinois, February 5, 1860. When he was a boy, his family moved to a farm southwest of Maroa. He received his education in Macon County Schools. He married Nellie Baird Hutchinson, daughter of Gabriel and Mary (Baird) Hutchinson, of Maroa, September 13, 1893. They engaged in farming near Maroa until the autumn of 1918, when they retired and moved to the city of Maroa. Mr. Wikoff was Supervisor of Maroa Township for several years. Mrs. Wikoff died April 10, 1936, and was followed in death by her husband on August 1, 1936. They were the parents of two sons, Velma Hutchinson and Virgil Lemuel.

Velma Hutchinson Wikoff was born two and one half miles west of Maroa on June 17, 1894. Velma went to Pleasant View District School and Maroa High School and helped with the farming at home. He is still living on and farming the home place as of 1954. So, with the exception of a few months, has spent his entire life on the same farm and has seen many changes in the countryside, methods of farming, mode of travel, improvement of crops and roads, etc. In 1915 he and Nina M. Daggett were married and he entered into partnership farming with his father, later renting the ground and is now owner-tenant of the same farm. They are the parents of seven children, all married now and living elsewhere. All of them attended the same schools as their father, but of course in better, newer buildings. The children are: Ross, farmer, living west of Maroa; -Dorothy, wife of Elwood Albert, living on a farm near Weldon, Illinois; Mrs. Nellie Stone, living in Forsyth, Illinois; Mrs. Charlene Adkins, living in Decatur, Illinois; Wayne, car salesman in Decatur, Illinois; Mrs. Mary Ellen Patterson, living in Santa Monica, California; and Mrs. Joan Acampora, living in Santa Monica, California. There are also seventeen grandchildren, all of whom live in Macon County, except five.

Virgil L. Wikoff was born October 17, 1902, on the farm southwest of Maroa. He was married June 3, 1925 to Grace Cornwell, daughter of John B. and Corda (Elam) Cornwell of Maroa, and they, too, reside on the farm. They have one son, Virgil Cornwell, born February 6, 1927 in Decatur. He enlisted in the U. S. Navy in January, 1945, following his graduation from Maroa High School. He served in the States and on the Islands of Hawaii and Guam until July 31, 1946, in World War II, and was recalled to service with the Naval Reserve in July, 1951. He was again released from active duty in October, 1952. He was graduated from the University of Illinois June 17, 1951, with a B.S. degree in Fine and Applied Arts, and is now an architect and contractor in Champaign, Illinois. He was married August 23, 1947 to Ruth Helen Moore, daughter of Edwin J. and Ruth (Davis) Moore. She was born November 26, 1928 in Decatur, Illinois. They have two daughters: Terrill Joanne, born in Clinton, October 1, 1950, and Patricia Suzanne, born in Clinton, April 11, 1952.

JAMES EDWARD WIKOFF, was born June 3, 1862 at Decatur, Illinois. When he was a small boy his parents moved to Maroa Township where he lived until his death. He attended the Pleasant View School which was organized the summer of 1868 with Lemuel Wikoff, Peter Wikoff and Williams Hanks as directors. In February, 1888, he was married to Annetta May Denise and they lived on a farm in the Pleasant View District. They were the parents of a daughter, Ethel Lucille. Mr. Wikoff and his family were members of the Maroa Presbyterian Church. He served as elder in the church for many years. Mrs. Wikoff passed away in 1894 and in 1897 he married Lou Ella Denise. They were the parents of two daughters: Bertha and Clara Louise. Mrs. Lou Ella Wikoff died in November, 1912, and J. E. Wikoff died September 24, 1941, survived by three daughters and three grandchildren.

Ethel Wikoff lived in Decatur and was employed at Osgood and Sons, Inc. in 1954. Ethel Wikoff died in May, 1974.

Bertha Wikoff was married to John Angel of Hicksville, Ohio, June 17, 1939. In 1954 they lived on a farm near Hicksville, Ohio. Bertha Wikoff Angel died in June, 1981. John Angel died in November, 1959. They had no children.

Clara Louise Wikoff and Lynn Austin were married in Maroa, Illinois, March 12, 1930. They have three children: Alice Virginia, who married Richard Lee Cooper, October 28, 1951 in her parents' home. They lived in Clinton, Illinois. Lynn Austin died in 1962 at the age of 60, and Clara Louise died in 1981 at the age of 72.

Robert Lynn served two years with the Army Medical Corp. He entered service February 4, 1952 and was in training at Camp Pickett, Va., Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and Fitzsimmons Hospital, Denver, Colorado. In November, 1952, he was sent overseas and served in the 21st station hospital at Pusan, Korea, where he was promoted to Corporal. He received his discharge on January 14, 1954 at Fort Sheridan. Robert Lynn married Lorita McClenagan on December 12,1987. They lived on the farm southwest of Maroa until Robert retired from the Maroa Farmers Co-op Elevator in 1996 after working there 40 years. They then purchased a home in Forsyth where they are now living.

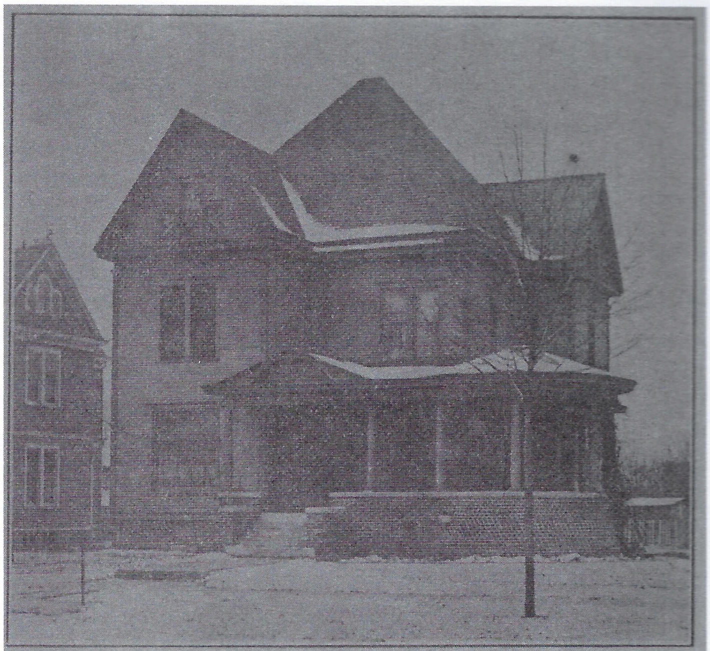
Alice Austin Cooper had two children. Jeff has one daughter, and Sue married Jay Summers and lives in Bellville. Alice is now married to Earl Moit and lives in Urbana, Illinois.

Larry Edward graduated from Maroa-Forsyth High School in 1958. He married Julie Liming on January 15,1959. He worked at Caterpillar, and is now retired. He and Julie now live between Clinton and Maroa. They have two children-Katherine Louise and Sherilyn.

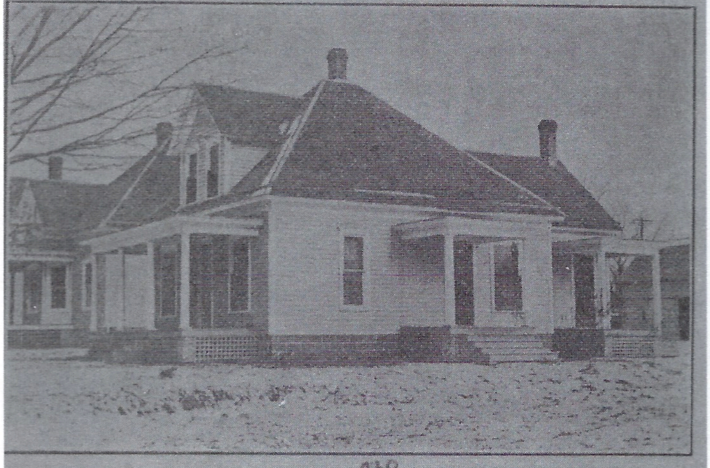
Katherine married Bob Darling, on December 21, 1979. They now live in Becker, Minnesota. They have one son, Matthew, who graduated from St. John's University in Minnesota in 2004. He was a starting defensive tackle for the college for three years.

Sherilyn married Greg Weikle on August 31,1979. They have two sons-Andrew and Derek. They are both students in Maroa-Forsyth High School. The family lives in Forsyth.

The children of Les and Minnie Montgomery. Front row l-r: Elizabeth (class of 1940, Valedictorian), Eleanor (class of 38). Back row l-r: Elaine (class of 38), Leland (class of 41 valedictorian), William (class of 44), Joan (class of 46). *Because William (Bill) was called into service he was unable to start his senior year, and did not get to graduate. In 1974, thirty years later his son, Kevin, graduated as valedictorian. In 2004, his youngest grandchild, Keith Chandler graduated and accepted on behalf of his late grandfather the diploma awarded posthumously to Bill.*



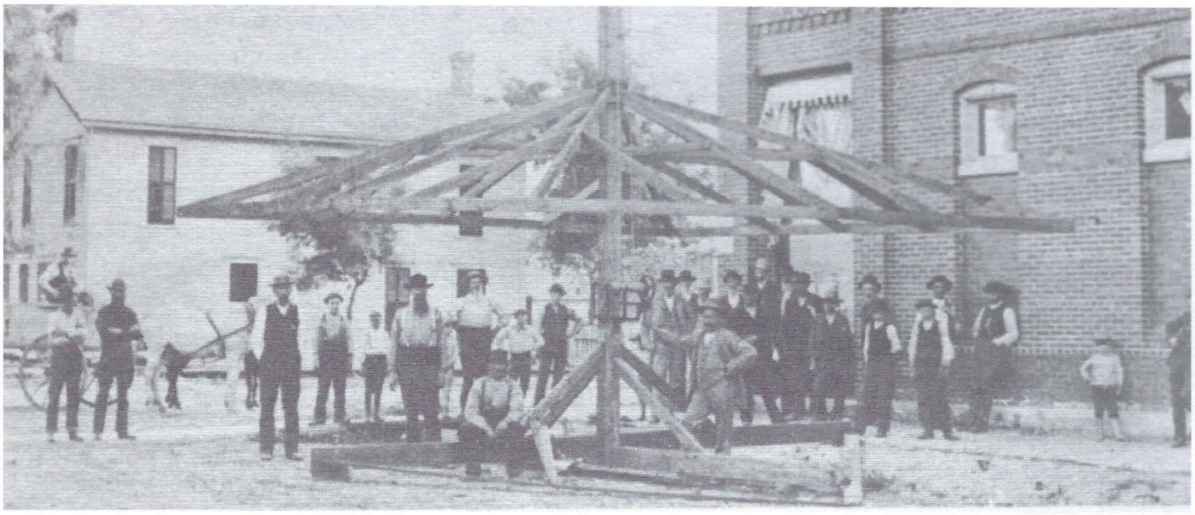
121
Residence of William Lyons, South Walnut Street.



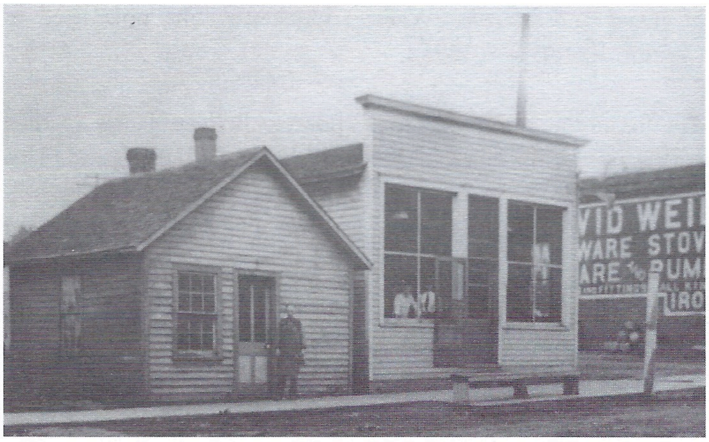
330
Mrs. George Smart's Cottage, South Walnut Street.

Top is residence of William Lyons at 121 South Walnut Street Lower picture is of Mrs. George Smart's cottage 330 South Walnut Street. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.

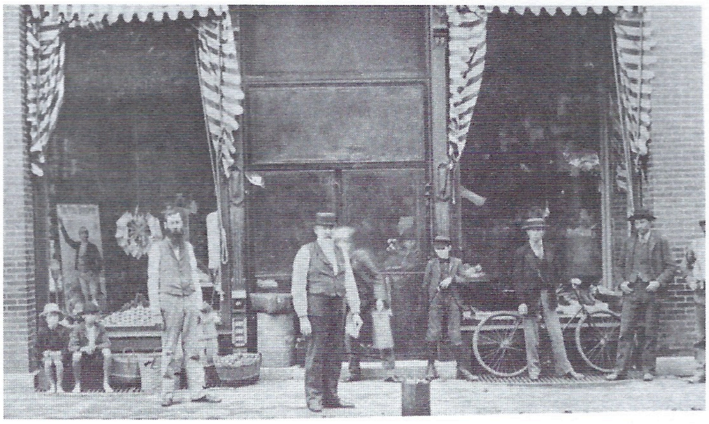
CHARLES W. WIKOFF was born October 22, 1864, southwest of Maroa and he died January 20, 1952. He lived at home working on the farm until he attended High School in Decatur for a short time. As a young man he started a funeral home in Maroa in conjunction with a furniture store. On September 6, 1892 he married Jennie Bennett, the daughter of Peter and Fannie (Williams) Bennett, who lived in Maroa and owned a jewelry store there. About 1894 he moved to Decatur. He established a business under the name of Wikoff and Reeve in Decatur. For over fifty years the name of Wikoff has been associated with a funeral home in Decatur. They had three children: Forest, Preston and Birdie Levare.



Smith's Corner and Schenck House, July 3, 1886



Left George Williams Watch Repair and Shoe Repair. Right Charlie Malone with the creamery. Photo courtesy of M&M Café



Smith's Grocery (H. B. Smith in Center) 1894

Gary Brelsford bought the Shell station in June 1973 from Tommy Marlatt. Note in the background the community center and Stoutenborough Insurance building.

In 1973, the Shell Station on south east corner of Main and Wood street.

Olive L. Wikoff born September 7, 1857

Forest G. Wikoff, who was born in Maroa on May 30, 1893, grew up in Decatur, Illinois, and graduated from high school. He attended Millikin University for a short while and joined his father. The business became the C. W. Wikoff and Son Funeral Home and was located on the site of the Masonic Temple, at Church and William Streets in Decatur, Illinois. He married Hazel Jeannette Yondorf, daughter of Charles and Hattie (Jones) Yondorf on October 23, 1916. To this union one son, Forest Gale, Jr. was born June 14, 1932 in Decatur, Illinois. He graduated from Millikin University in June, 1954. Forest G. Wikoff operated the Dawson & Wikoff Funeral Home at 1954.

Preston Troy Wikoff was born in Decatur on February 2, 1895. He attended high school there and as did his grandfather, Lemuel Wikoff, ran a dairy for about fifteen years. On May 10, 1913, he married Edna Freemont. They are the parents of four sons and one daughter. About 1925 he moved to Urbana, Illinois, where he bought the Renner Funeral Home at the corner of Race and Green Streets. His sons, Donald T., Charles W. and Richard Gale were in business with him in 1954. Donald T. Wikoff was born January 5, 1914 at Decatur, Illinois. On September 17, 1932 he married Ruth Brennen born in 1913 and their son, Gary Troy, was born June 12, 1940. William Preston Wikoff was born May 31, 1921 in Decatur, Illinois. On July 12, 1941 he married Eileen Gilmore, born in 1922. Their daughter, Judith Ann was born January 21, 1944.

He has a funeral home in Rossville, about 40 miles northeast of Urbana, Illinois. He went into the army November 20, 1942, saw service overseas and was wounded in action in France May 11, 1945 and came home September 29, 1945. Charles W. Wikoff was born September 28, 1923 at Decatur, Illinois. On March 9, 1947 he married Lucile Rhymer. They have two children: Joan Lucille, born February 10, 1950, and Robert Wesley on October 22, 1952. He entered the Army Air Corps January 31, 1943. He was air corps instructor here in the States and came home September 29, 1945. Richard Gale Wikoff was born February 13, 1926 in Decatur, Illinois. On October 21, 1947 he married Ellen McQuaid, born in 1922. They have three children: John Preston, born January 18, 1949, Ellen Gail, born December 13, 1949 and Kevin Blake, born January 18, 1954. He was in the Navy from June 26. 1944 until August 17, 1945. Eleanor Ann Wikoff was born August 23, 1930 in Champaign, Illinois. On Julv 30, 1950 she was married to Wavne Walter Robertson, born in 1928. They have one son, Dennis Todd, born May 8, 1953.

Birdie Levare Wikoff was born in Decatur, October 8, 1898. She graduated from Decatur High School in 1918 and on June 22, 1921 she married R. Archie West, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Edward West. They have one son Robert Wikoff, who was born April 13 1927. He graduated from Decatur High School and the University of Illinois and is with the WSOY Radio Station in Decatur, Illinois as of 1954. On August 5, 1950. he married Jean Miriam Shaffer daughter of Russell and Bertha Nickey Shaffer. They have a daughter, Jane Anna.

WILLIAM AUGUSTA WIKOFF, was born August 24, 1867 in Maroa Township. He died December 1, 1935.

He owned and operated a hardware business in Maroa from 1901 to 1903. The rest of his life, until retirement, was spent in farming near Maroa. He retired from farming in 1923, and moved to Decatur, Illinois.

William A. Wikoff was united in marriage to Harriet Anna Hockaday, November 7, 1889, in the Emery Methodist Church. She was one of eight children, born November 7, 1870, a daughter of James and Martha (Walker) Hockaday. She now lived in Decatur, Illinois as of 1954.

To this union were born four children: Bernice, James Orville, Helen (born November 7, 1894 - died June 17, 1897), and Fleta.

Bernice Pearl Wikoff was born October 15, 1890 and graduated from Maroa High School. After teaching for five years, she was united in marriage to Elwood Hanes in Decatur, February 19, 1916. Elwood was born June 2, 1894, son of Edward Arthur Hanes and Mary (Keister) Hanes. Edward Hanes was born in 1866 and died in 1906. Mary K. Hanes was born in 1869 and died in 1901. Elwood has one brother, Howard, and two sisters, Martha and Helen Hanes. Elwood has been a farmer and cattleman near Maroa all of his life. To this union was born one son, Ralph Elwood Hanes, born February 7, 1917. He graduated from Maroa High School and received his B.S. degree from the University of Illinois in 1942. That same year he enlisted in the U. S. Navy where he served on the U. S. S. Thetis Bay with the Pacific Fleet and was released from active duty as a Lieutenant in 1946. As of 1954 he was now farming near Maroa. He was united in marriage to Mary Gene Fabry November 14, 1945 at her home in Pekin, Illinois. She was born January 25, 1922, a daughter of Alphonse and Ida (Keena) Fabry. To this union were born three children: Diane Lynn Hanes, born November 15, 1946, Richard Arthur Hanes, born August 26, 1949, and Jane Bernice Hanes, born December 10, 1953. All are members of Maroa Methodist Church.

Updated Information, August 2004:
Ralph and Gene live in Maroa. Diane is married to Marshall England and has a daughter Mary and a son Trey. They live in Sherwood, Oregon. Richard married Cinda Snell and they have two sons, Adam (mariied to Jill Wilkerson with one son) and Andrew (married to Lindsay Fisher). Richard and Cindy reside in his parents house southwest of Maroa and farm in the Maroa vacinity. Jane is married to Don Querry and she has a daughter Kristen Barnett (married with two sons) and Brett Barnett. Jane lives in Bernice and Elwood's home shouthwest of Maroa.

James Orville Wikoff was born August 24, 1892 near Maroa. He graduated from Maroa High School and is now farming the home place. In 1914 he married Nellie Edith Bricker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. N. Bricker. Three children were born to this union, near Maroa, Illinois: James Darwin was born October 17, 1914. He graduated from Maroa High School and the University of Illinois and worked for Armour Packing Co. until he entered the service in August, 1941. He was in the Army Air Corps for four years, becoming a Major, and was sent overseas. He is now in the implement business at Easton, Illinois. He was married to Mary Louise Jennings of Joplin, Missouri, a daughter of Mrs. George Little at Joplin, Missouri, in 1941. Three children were born to this union: Nancy Kathryn, born March 1, 1943, in Waco, Texas, Suzanne was born November 9, 1944 and was killed October 9, 1947; Kenneth Eugene was born August 17, 1947 in Canton, Illinois.

Helen Elizabeth was born January 2, 1916, graduated from Maroa High School and attended the University of Illinois for three and one half years. She was married to Edward F. Dudley, Jr., of Oak Park, Illinois, in 1938 near Maroa. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Dudley, Sr. He is affiliated with the U. S. Steel Corporation in Chicago. Three children were born to this union in Chicago, Illinois: Edward F. III, born May 14, 1939, James Robert, born March 15, 1942, and Deborah Ann, born August 26, 1952. William Franklin was born March 27, 1917 and graduated from Maroa High School and from the University of Illinois. He entered the Army Air Corps in February, 1943, and was in the army three and one half years, serving as a B-29 pilot and seeing overseas duties. He is now farming his father's farm. He was married to Mary Louise Kelly of San Jose, Illinois in 1947, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. 0. D. Kelly in San Jose, Illinois. They have one daughter, Luann Kaye, born in Decatur, Illinois, August 12, 1953. She graduated from Maroa-Forsyth High School and graduated from ISU, in 1974. She married Kenneth Stemler on December 7, 1974. They live on the farm that her parents lived on before they moved into Maroa. Luann received her Masters degree from Illinois State University in 1987, and her Doctorate Degree from Illinois State University in 1996 in Curriculum and Instruction. Luan is presently an instructor at Millikin University, Decatur.

Luann and Kenneth have two daughters. Colleen was born on August 30,1977, and graduated from Maroa-Forsyth High School. She earned a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla. She works for J. W. Grand in Raleigh, North Carolina and is living there.

Nicole was born on March 7, 1980. She graduated from Maroa-Forsyth High School and from North Carolina State. She is now teaching 7th grade in Apex, North Carolina.

Fleta Imogene Wikoff was born October 9, 1896. She was graduated from Maroa High School in 1914 and studied music at Millikin Conservatory of Music. She was married to Harold Russell Hanes, January 1, 1920, in the home of her parents in Maroa, Illinois. H. Russell Hanes was born April 18, 1897 in Hickory Point Township, a son of George Harold and Florence (Montgomery) Hanes of Decatur, Illinois. He enlisted in the U. S. Marines and served two years overseas in World War I. He is now farming near Warrensburg, Illinois. To this union two daughters were born: Betty Imogene was born September 16, 1920, near Warrensburg, Illinois. She graduated from Warrensburg High School and attended Brown's Business College in Decatur. She was secretary at Macon County AAA Office in Decatur, Illinois for several years. She was married to Corwin Charles Marsh, December 24, 1941 in the bride's home. He was born June 10, 1919, the son of Charles and Vilena (Augustus) Marsh of Maroa, Illinois. He is now farming near Maroa, Illinois. To this union four children were born: Alan Charles, September 19, 1943; Sally Jo, May 22, 1946; Harold Daniel, January 30, 1948, and Mary Ellen on February 11, 1952. Harriet Florence was born May 24, 1922 and graduated from Warrensburg High School. She was general bookkeeper at the Millikin National Bank of Decatur for several years. She was married to William Francis Hill June 10, 1943 in the Methodist Church at Warrensburg, Illinois. William F. Hill was born March 18, 1918, a son of Chester R. and Allie (Brown) Hill near Decatur, Illinois. He served three years in the U. S. Army with two years overseas duty during World War II and is now with the Millikin National Bank of Decatur, Illinois. To this union two children were born: Thomas William on December 4, 1946, and Sue Jane on March 7, 1950.

Updated Information, August 2004:
Fleta and H. Russell Hanes are both deceased. Betty(Hanes) and Corwin Marsh, Betty and Corwin's son, Alan, and their grandson, Robert are also all deceased. Alan married Loretta Cooper and had a son Robert and a daughter Michelle. Robert married Rebecca Mattingly and had three sons, Alan(Tyler), Brandon, and Cody. Sally married Lyle Honnold and lives in Darien, Illinois. H. Daniel married Kathy Miller and had a son Nathan (married to Karissa Bischoff) and a daughter, Tara. Daniel farms and lives southwest of Maroa. Mary is an RN working at the hospital surgical department in South Bend, Indiana.
Harriet and Bill Hill along with both of their children, reside in the Decatur area. Their son Tom married Carol Carter and they had a son, Trey and a daughter Tiffany. Sue married Robert Moore and had a daughter Angie (married with two daughters) and a son Matt.

FRED 0. WIKOFF was born November 28, 1875 in the home place, five and one half miles southwest of Maroa, and died May 2, 1939. At the age of 13 he moved with his parents to Maroa where he attended school and graduated in 1895 from Maroa High School. He attended Brown's Business College in Decatur for one year. He entered the Citizens Bank at Maroa as bookkeeper and assistant cashier,

Fred O. Wikoff born November 28, 1875 picture circa 1899

where he stayed for twenty-seven years until the bank closed its doors. In 1899 he was married to Nellie E. Cade, who graduated from same High school class in 1895. She was the daughter of Stephen and Martha Cooper Cade. After the closing of the Citizens Bank, he took a position in Burtchi's State Bank of Decatur. Two children were born to this union: Russell L. and Juanita E.

Russell L. Wikoff was born March 14, 1901. He graduated from Maroa High School and later married Ruth Slater of Robinson, Illinois. He is affiliated with the Humble Oil Company of Houston, Texas.

Juanita E. Wikoff was born May 21, 1904. She also graduated from Maroa High School and taught two years in Maroa Schools. She married Richard D. Head of Decatur, Illinois. Richard D. Head is now deceased and she is residing in Dallas, Texas.

Thomas B. Pyle and wife, Lizzie Rose Pyle, removed from the County of Washington, Kentucky, the birthplace of Mr. Pyle, to Maroa, Macon County, Illinois, in 1881. Mrs. Pyle was born at Bradfordsville, Marion County, Kentucky.

The antecedents of Mr. and Mrs. Pyle were among the earliest settlers of Kentucky. Their families were of English, Irish and Scotch colonists and were in the Jamestown and Maryland Colonies.

The children: John Henry, Lonnie Hundley and Herbert Dee (all deceased) and Lula Rose (Stuhr) and Nina Lee.

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◇ ◇

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A sincere thank-you to our many friends for your business. We hope to serve you for many years to come.

Celebrating 150 years of Maroa with you!

Fran, Toni, Mance & Katrina

◇ ◇

MAROA TO REMEMBER GENE FOR COUNTLESS GENEROSITIES

By BILL DOUGHERTY
Of The Herald and Review Staff

"Gene preached his own funeral sermon," the minister said, and there were few dry eyes in the Maroa Methodist church because all of Gene Creekmur's friends knew exactly what was meant and few there were who had not felt his kindness.

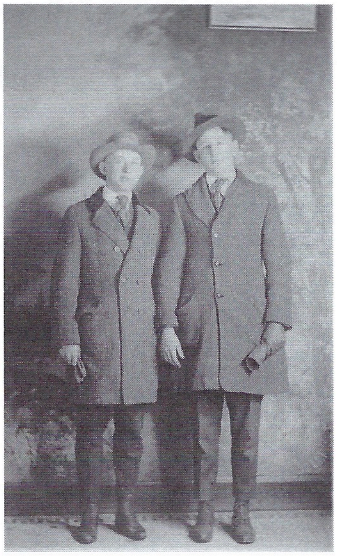
"Only those here today whom Gene has befriended in times of distress and need know what it meant to have a friend who was charitable and understood the problems of this life; who tried to help others bear their burdens, and one to whom they felt free to go at any time when in need." the minister continued, and many there had been in need and had gone to their friend.

Gene Creekmur's death in Tuesday's fire was a tragedy that all of Maroa and much of Decatur felt. There has never been a bigger funeral in the little town that watched Gene's rise from a shoe shine boy.

Although services were held just 24 hours after the body was found so that hundreds of his friends didn't attend because they thought the funeral would be held later in the week, cars radiated two blocks in every direction from the church. There were more flowers than could be displayed, and floral pieces continued to arrive two days after the services.

All Knew of Generosity
If a hundred people told you of Gene's charitable acts each story would be different and they would all be right.

He bought war bonds, lots of them, and contributed to everything else when he was asked, but these are not the things for which he will be remembered. It's the Christmas baskets, help to children who needed clothing to go to school, money wired to soldiers so they could get home on furlough, $500 and $1,000 loans to lift mortgages— these are the things that will be remembered.


Charlie and Gene Creekmur

There will be many Decatur newsboys who won't forget walking into a tavern on cold winter nights to hawk their papers and get warm when they found a tall, blond man with a smile that was as big as his heart, who tossed them a couple of dollars and told them to go home. That was Gene.

"No one knows just how much he has done for people," one of his friends said. "If you didn't see him contribute you would never know about it because he never talked about anything he did and he wouldn't want me to be telling you about it right now."

No Signing of Papers

"When a person needed help didn't make any difference whether it was ten or a thousand -Gene would listen. He didn't go into a fellow's ancestry or want a lot of papers signed. He'd say 'what do you need it for and when can you pay it back,' then he would peel off the cash.

picture of Gene Creekmur of head/chest use with story of fire.

"He would give anybody one chance. I remember a fellow came to him and wanted $60 to buy a heifer. He gave him the money and told him to pay it back when he sold his beans. No note signing, no nothing. And that sort of thing happened hundreds of times. Gene just liked people and trusted them. Biggest hearted guy that ever lived —and that's for sure."

More than one business in Decatur has been started with a loan from Gene and at one time he had money in six Maroa places, his friends say. He sponsored band concerts, bought baseball and basketball suits for the teams and whenever the draft board called up a group of men from the Maroa vicinity he threw a big dinner and party for them.

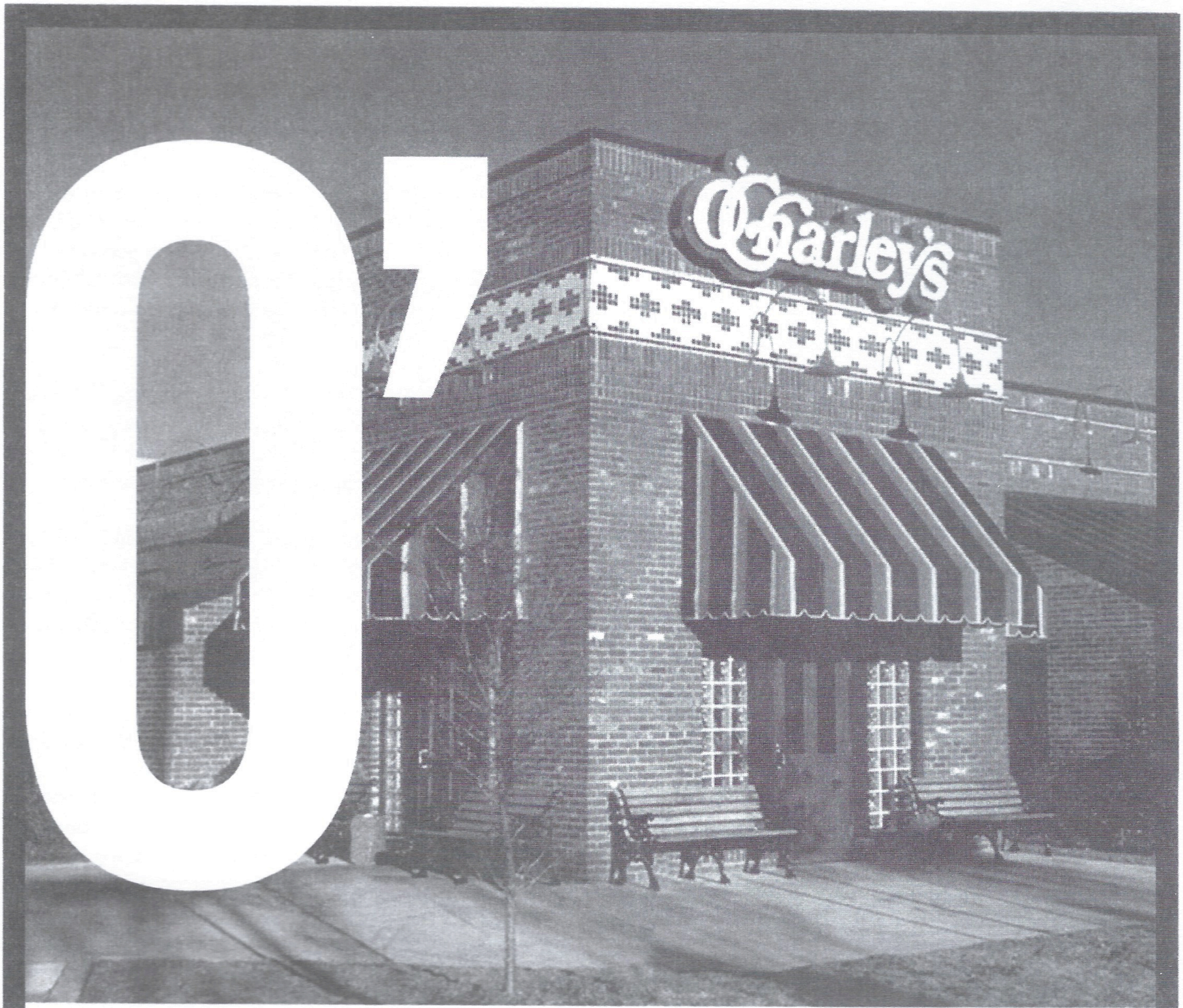
Stood Out Anywhere
"He was a man that would stand out in any crowd," one of his Decatur friends said. "Why, I'd see a big tall guy coming down Water street, swinging along with a stiff straw hat on the back of his head and a smile that you could spot a block away and that would be Gene."

Gene earned his money. He didn't finish school because he had to work. When he was 11 he was shining shoes, and for 14 years he worked for a Maroa merchant. When this merchant left town and the business was auctioned off, Gene bought it and continued in the same place for another 15 years. But in the days when he wasn't earning enough money in the grocery store where he started to pay his family's grocery bill, his mother and father died.

Gene never was able to overcome his remorse over his mother's death and the irony of having money to help her only after she was gone. So he spent his money on other people.

And I have an idea that that is the way his mother would have wanted it and that she is pretty proud of her son, Gene.

Gene was an uncle of Charlotte Underwood and Bob Creekmur. He was a great uncle to Roger, Charles, Richard and Curt Young. Gene was also an uncle to Jim Clough and Helen Young.



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MAROA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The first preaching place sustained by the Methodist Episcopal Church in Maroa Township was at the residence of Robert Belford, six and one-half miles southeast of Maroa, in 1857. R. C. Norton of Decatur was the preacher in charge and the eleven members were John Orr, wife and mother, John Belford and wife, John Kilpatrick and wife, Joseph Jones and wife, Robert Belford and wife. In about two years services were changed to Maroa in the Illinois Central Depot, alternating each Sunday with the Presbyterians. When the new school house was completed, the services were held there.

In 1865 Maroa Circuit was formed with H. M. Rice as pastor and it embraced Maroa, Lake Fork, Forsyth, West Ridge, and Mt. Pleasant. There was no church in the entire circuit and one was built in Maroa in 1867. This building stood on the corner east of the present home of Mrs. Chas. J. Spooner. It was a small one room building with a partition through the center, separating the men and the women. It was later moved to the site of the present parsonage.

There were many changes in the circuits through the years and in 1890 Maroa and Prairie Chapel formed one appointment. The next year a new church was built in the Prairie Chapel neighborhood, four miles east and one mile south of Maroa. It was named Epworth Chapel and services were held there until November 1939.

In 1892 the first church built by the Maroa Methodists was torn down and a new larger one erected at a cost of $6,000. During the pastorate of S. N. Wakefield, 1911-13, it was planned to erect a new building. Before this was completed, the old church burned. On this site a parsonage was built during the pastorate of E. J. Campbell, 1917-19.

The new church, including the lot and furnishings, was built at a cost of $23, 500. The building committee consisted of J. H. Parker, T. J. Cramer, R. B. Wikoff, .J. F. Harris, B. F. Shipley, J. P. Parker, M. D. Brown, V. R. Grady, and John Longstreet.

We begin with a continuation of the history given in the 1954 Centennial History Book. In 1954, the pastor of the Maroa United Methodist Church was D. C. Ellinwood. The church membership is 478 and the average Sunday School attendance is 248 in 1954.

From 1956 to 1959, Seldon Myers served as pastor.

1959 Maroa Methodist Church Nursery

Left around the back: Janet Shull, Tony Sinkosky, Mrs. Hazel Agee-Teacher, Elaine Blanchard, Mrs. Margaret Leach (holding Dawn Eagler), Scott Hoffman, Karen Leach, Chuck Leach, Mark Blanchard, Janet Oakes, Mrs. Shirley Oakes, Tim Sinkosky, Mrs. Ellen Sinkosky, Second row: unknown, Evelyn Groves, First row: Debbie Parker, Greg Weikle, John A. Zelhart, Mrs. Imogene Zelhart, and Cindy Foulke.

In 1957 the WSCS (Women's Society of Christian Service) had an active membership of 150 women. By 1958, the church was outgrowing it's facilities and time had arrived to do something about making room for the Sunday School attendance. With this in mind a meeting was called on December 10, 1958 and a resolution was made requesting the official board to appoint a building committee. William Schultz, Jr. was named commission chairman. A committee was selected and on February 5, 1959 it was approved by the board. The personnel of the committee were: Ray Ferrill, Chairman, Ernest F. Wikowsky, Vice Chairman, Mrs. Harold Lienhart, Secretary, George Gentle, Treasurer, Herbert Marlow, John M. Zelhart, and Mrs. Jim Moberly. Mrs. Woodrow L. Terrell was named one year later to succeed Mrs. Lienhart. The committee lost the valuable services of Mr. Ferrill when he passed away on June 4, 1962.

Ground breaking ceremonies took place on March 19, 1961. Among the shovel wielders were Mr. Cornelius Braden, and representing the church of the future were Beverly Leach and Jerry Lienhart. The $90,000 two-story brick structure adds 7,500 square feet of floor space to the church. It provided nine Sunday School Classrooms, a pastor' study, a church office, a nursery and a large kitchen.

Rev. George Harjes was the pastor during the building project. The general contractors were Lyman and Wikoff of Champaign, Il. The new building was consecrated on September 9, 1962. The grand total cost of the building addition was $93,513.40.

In May of 1968, the church parlor was converted into a small chapel. That same year the United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church combined to form the United Methodist Church. The membership continued to grow in the 60's and 70's. Youth groups were active – there was a large choir and the congregation began to participate in plays. The women of the church continued to have their yearly bazaar – Vacation Bible School was held every year combined with the Christian Church and on July 4th weekend, the Christian and Methodist Church held a combined community Sunday service on the Christian Church lawn. This is still a yearly gathering. Drama became a very active part of our church in the 80's and 90's. Under the direction of Juanita Wilson, many churches were represented throughout the area as they participated in plays. "The Promise", a play with a large cast, was performed at the Civic Center in Decatur. The fellowship of Christians who came from throughout the area made these performances very meaningful experiences for them as well as sending the message of our Lord out to the public.

The "Women of the Bible" presentation was given over 100 times in different churches and gatherings. This was a project of the women of our church – they portrayed in costume several of the women of the Bible –with a narration by Joyce Griffith.

M.E. Church, Maroa, Ill

Picture of the Methodist Church before the fire in 1912. Photo courtesy of M&M Café

New M. E. Church Maroa, Ill.

Methodist Church 1913

The Men's Choir organized in the 80's – a group of men (nine at the present time) who love to sing and love the Lord. They have been asked to sing in several different communities.

The mixed choir is directed by Jenny Powell who is also one of our church musicians.

The children's choir continues under the direction of Jill Kuykendall.

The Maroa Methodist Men's group combined with the Forsyth Methodist Men's group in the 90's and have to this date built two Habitat for Humanity homes in the Maroa area. They continue to be a very active group participating in many outreach projects. The deer hunters of our church donate venison to food pantries and soup kitchens. In 2003, six hundred pound of venison was donated.

Our outreach committee has organized a shoe project the last few years whereby disadvantaged children will receive new shoes at the beginning of school. Outreach also has bread donated to the Good Samaritan Inn. Jerry Kuykendall continues to serve as leader in these projects and is the coordinator of the Volunteer Caregivers program in Maroa.

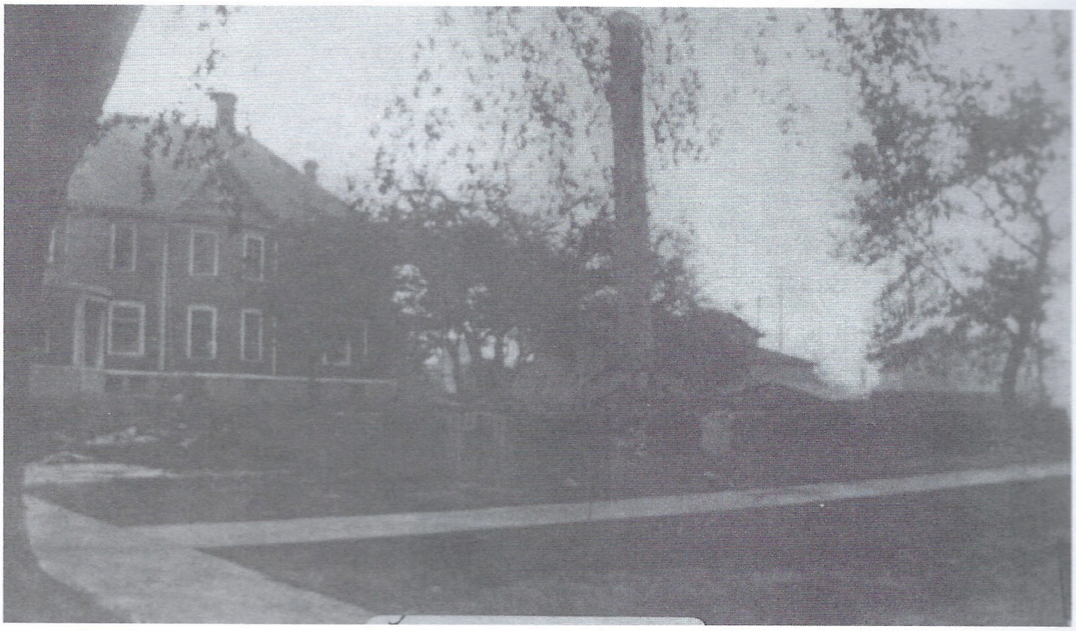
Work trips have been to Henderson Settlement in Kentucky and to a Spanish Mission in Southern Illinois. This year a group did construction work at the Living Springs campground in western Illinois.

Bible Studies continue – one lead by the pastor during the day and one held at night each week.

At the present time, there are four adult Sunday School classes and five children and youth classes.

Several faithful ladies continue to serve meals to the bereaved families after the funeral services.

Prior to the holiday season a "Christmas Store" is opened for children of our community to purchase gifts for their families at a minimal cost. Out of this project we have seen new members in our church.



Fire of 1912 destroyed the Methodist Church which was on the north east corner of Walnut and Lincoln. It is the present site of the parsonage. Photo courtesy of M&M Café

At present we have a youth group meeting every week and our church is open to all the youth of our community. John and Jennifer Power are the leaders.

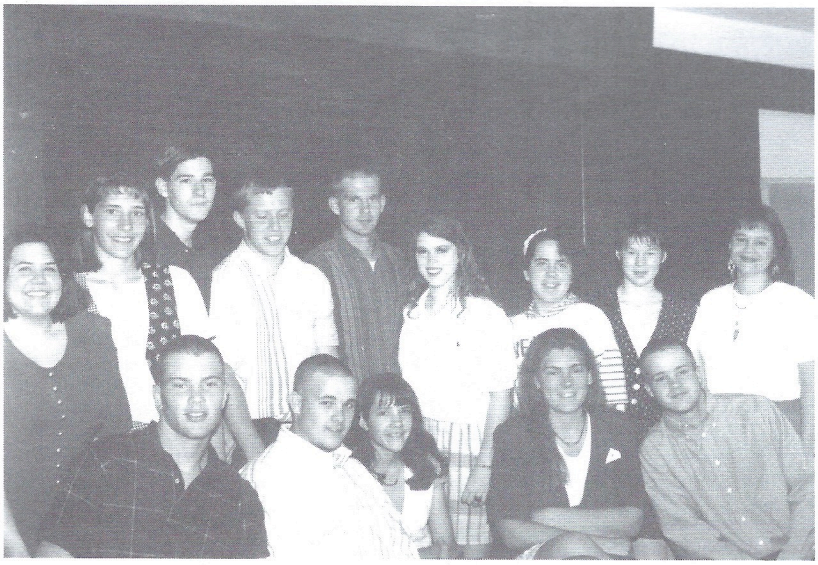
The most recent venture is the Prayer and Square Quilt project. This project began when John Rogers received a prayer quilt during his illness and his wife, Sue thought it such a nice gesture, she began the project in our church. The quilts are made at the church, meeting once a week, and each quilt is dedicated at a church service and members of the congregation tie the ties on the quilt representing their prayer for that particular person in need of prayer.

Marao United Methodist Church Parsonage 2004

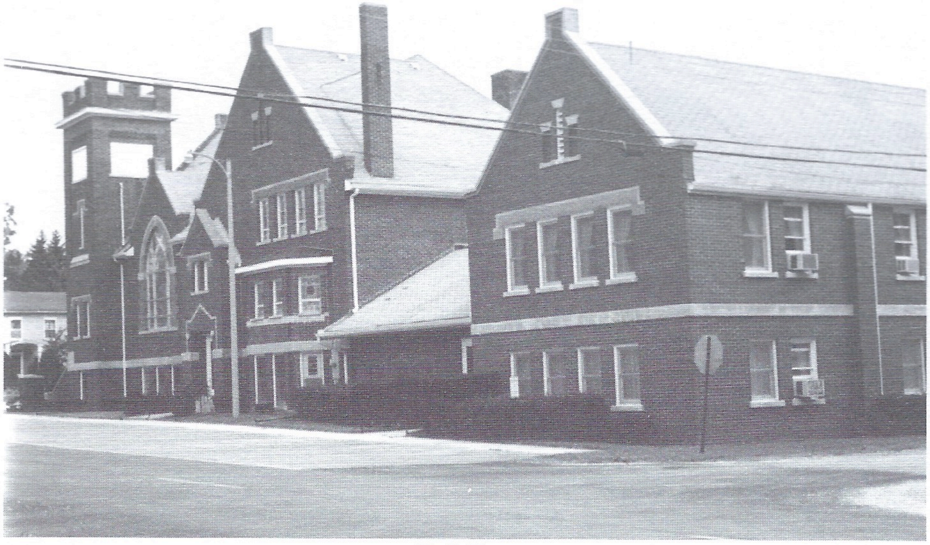
The installation of air-conditioning and the decorating of the sanctuary took place in 2001 and 2002.

At the present time, the church has a committee in charge of installing a new elevator on the north side of the church. It should be completed by the end of the year.

At the Maroa United Methodist Church the church family is very important to us. We are blessed with a loving congregation – caring for each other in good times and bad. Our doors are always open to anyone who has the desire to know the Lord. Come and worship with us. At the present time our pastor is Terry Westerfield. He came to be our pastor in January 2004.



The Methodist High school Sunday school class 1994-1995: back row left to rightMandy Cox, Nikki Stemler, Nathan Schlag, Andrew Hanes, Chris Wood, Sarah Buchter, Heather Anderson, Megan Plunkett, Dawn Nibbelin. Front row l-r: Adam Hanes, David Church, Lindsey Daggett, Colleen Stemler, Danny Church.



1962 Photo

Women of the Bible presentation by the Methodist church women. This picture was taken in 1995, as they traveled across the state of Illinois. Standing left to right: Jenny Bragg, Loretta Austin, Ellen Sinkosky, Shirley Utterback, Connie Salzman, Charlotte Underwood, Ruth Ann Wilson, Edna Rogers, Fredonna Faulkner, Dorothy Sprague, Virginia Crouch, Geraldine Sprecklemeyer, Betty Coen, and Mary Tangney. Seated is l-r: Joyce Griffith, Tammy Ripley with baby daughter Laura, and Leslie Salzman.

The shut in Ministry of the Methodist church, pictured here in 1992-93. L-r: Joyce Tibbs, Denise Sarna, Don Tibbs, Curtis Wilson, Carl Gardner, LeRoy Wilson, Dave Plunkett. In front if Jennifer Sarna.

Methodist Sunday School Class 1990: l-r: ?, Jeremiah Hoffman, Corey Zelhart, Darci Hays, Heather Young, Emily Braden, Jennifer Sarna.

And Old Fashioned Church service in 1993, Back row l-r: Ruth Ann Wilson, LeRoy Wilson, Julie Church (Now Julie Crabtree), Becky Adams, Curtis Wilson, Bill Turner. Front row: Edna Rogers, Ruth Groves, Jill Kuykendall, Juanita Wilson, Carl Gardner.

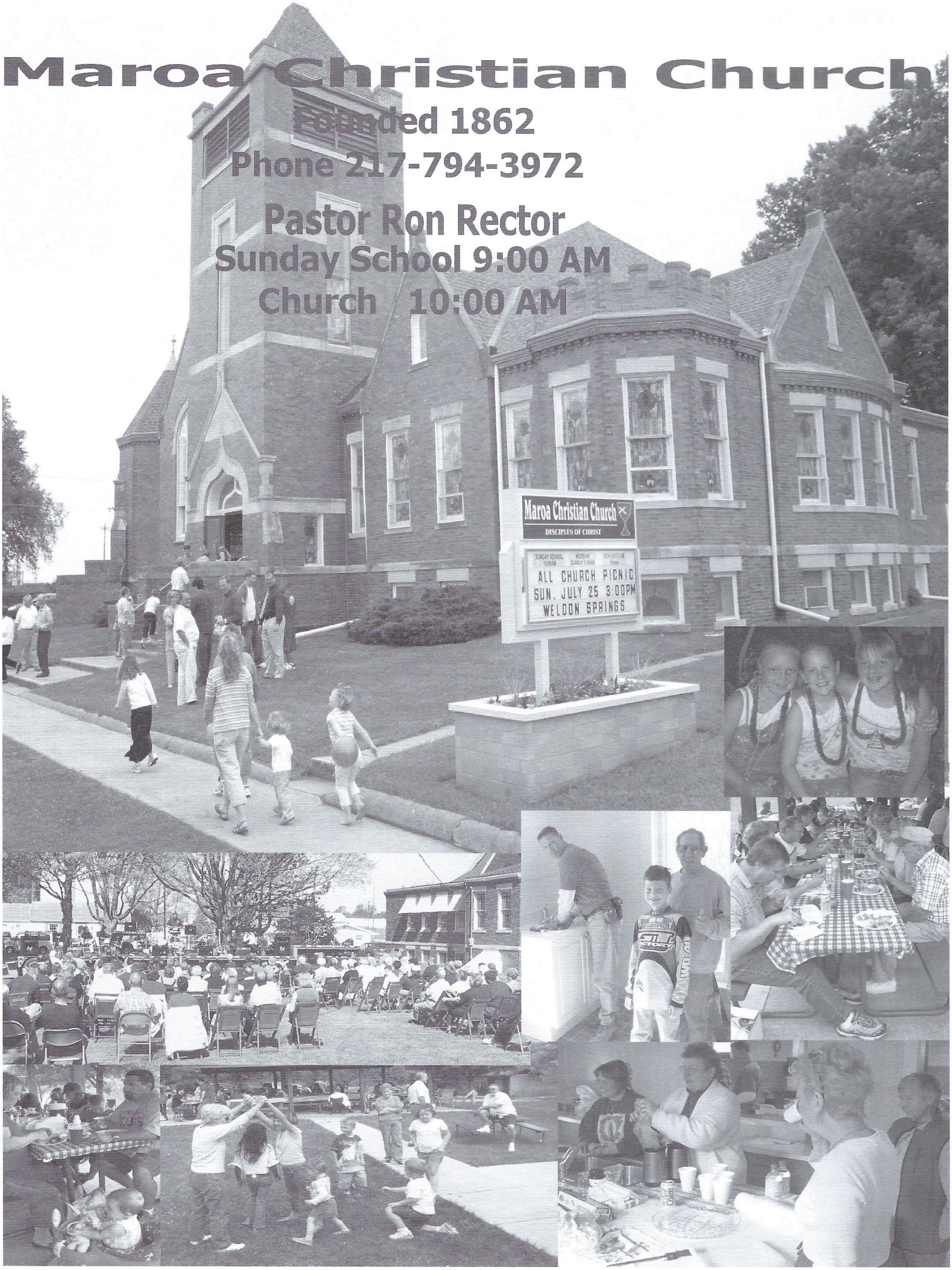
PASTORS OF THE MAROA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1857	R. C. Norton
1857	John Everly
1858	C. G. Bradshaw
1859	W. B. Anderson
1860	S. S. Meginnis
1861	G. H. Adams
1862	W. H. Smith
	T. S. Johnson
1864	J. Staples
	J. Nottingham
1865	M. A. Rice
1866	H. S. Tryon
1867	N. S. Buckner
1868	A. Semple
1869-70	J. Pellatt
1871	S. H. Whitlock
1872	J. W. Crane
1873-74	T. D. N. Simmons
1875-77	T. Hines
1878-79	W. R. Howard
1880-82	W. A. Reynolds
1883-84	C. R. Morrison
1885	G. Cunningham
1886	W. H. Davis
1887	J. D. Fry
1888	S. H. Huber
1889	S. H. Huber
	W. D. Atkinson
1890-91	H. L. Murray
1892-93	J. H. Waterbury
1894	C. P. Hard
1895-96	Preston Wood, Jr
1897	G. R. Newkirk
1898-99	J. F. Clearwater
1900-02	D. T. Miles
1903-04	R. W. Ennis
1905-06	W. W. Drake
1907-08	G. W. Mcconkey
1909-10	F. B. Ward
1911-13	S. N. Wakefield
1914	Peter Kittel
1915-16	J. D. Shouse
1917-19	E. J. Campbell
1920-	D. H. Hartley
1921-23	W. W. Theobald
1924-26	J. C. Berry
1927-29	G. N. Wilkerson
1930-33	C. W. Ivie
1934-36	G. E. Mayo
1937	P. P. Carson
1938-39	L. R. Sutton
1940-41	O. H. Meyers
1942-49	Cyrus H. Young
1950-55	D. C. Ellinwood
1956-59	S. L. Myers
1959-63	George Harjes
1963-65	Kelvin Mccray
1965-69	William Butler
1969-71	James Friesner,Jr.
1971-79	David Gaffron
1979-82	Carl Hendry
1982-90	John Crede
1990-95	John Salzman
1995-97	Danny Lybarger
1997-03	David Nottrott
2004	Terry Westerfield

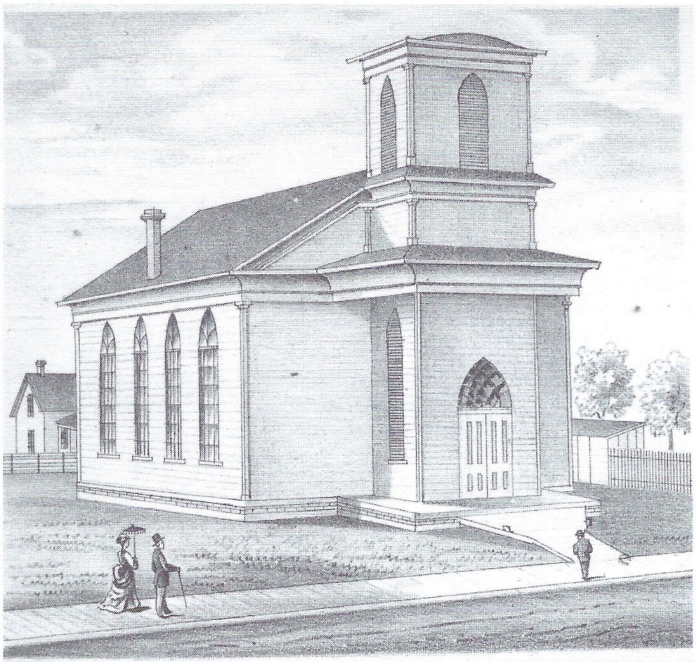
Maroa Christian Church

Founded 1862
Phone 217-794-3972

Pastor Ron Rector
Sunday School 9:00 AM
Church 10:00 AM


Maroa Christian Church
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
ALL CHURCH PICNIC
SUN, JULY 25 3:00PM
WELDON SPRINGS

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



CHRISTIAN CHURCH, MAROA, ILLS. ELDER J.V.BEEKMAN, PASTOR.

The following women from the Maroa Christian Church are ready to leave to sell oleo in order to raise money for the Centennial in 1954.
Back row left to right: Mrs. William Hayes, Mrs Joe Longsdorff, Mrs. Wayne Query, Mrs. Harold Chalcraft, Mrs. John Rush, Mrs. Arthur Fathauer, Mrs. Jesse Bivens, Mrs. Elmer Gardner, Bottom row: Mrs. Delmar Clifton, Mrs. Elwin McElvenna and Mrs. David Catlin.

The Maroa Church of Christ was organized in the home of Dr. J. W. Thayer on May 4, 1862 with 24 charter members, 21 of whom had been members of the Texas or Clinton Christian Churches in DeWitt County.

For about a year different members held the meetings in their homes. In March 1863, J. W. Tyler was employed to preach one-fourth of the time. About this time the meetings were held in the schoolhouse.

In May 1868 the first steps were taken toward building a church. The building was raised and enclosed but not finished and was used in this condition for two years. It was then plastered, painted, and pews were installed.

In 1868 a Sunday School was organized with 50 attendants. The Sunday School has continued since that time and has always paid its own expenses. In 1880 the current expenses for the Sunday School were $45 for the year.

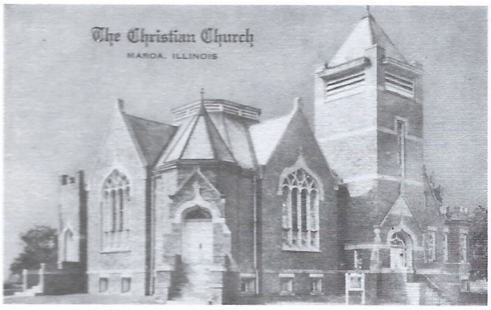
When the congregation of the Presbyterian Church decided to build their church uptown, the people of the Christian Church bought the lot where the Presbyterian Church stood. About this time, the name of the church was changed from the Maroa Church of Christ to the Maroa Christian Church.

The present church was built and dedicated free of debt during the ministry of Rev. W. H. Harding. It was dedicated March 19, 1911. Two members of the official board at the time the church was dedicated were still living and members of the church at the time of the centennial celebration in 1954. They are Velma Davis and W. O. Shaw. Mr. Davis is still a member of the official board.

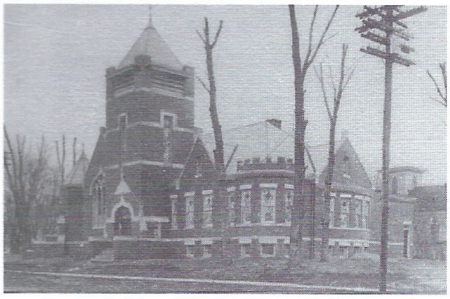
When the old frame church building was torn down, the lumber that was usable was used in erecting a seven room dwelling on the site of the old church. Today, this is used as a parsonage.

The 1914 Christian Church Sunday school class. L. J. Purdom, Sunday

The Maroa Christian Church joined the community to celebrate the centennial of Maroa. We participated in 'Centennial Sunday' with Rev. C. L. Duxbury giving a sermon on the history of the 'Disciples of Christ' and its founder Alexander Campbell. Many members of the church were active participants in the celebration.



Postcard of the Christian Church cir 1950's.
Courtesy of Larry Nix.



1970 Church Photo

The church building, like a home, needs maintenance so the sanctuary was redecorated in 1959.

Three years later in 1962 the congregation celebrated the centennial of the organization, in May 1862, of the Maroa Christian Church. John Hammons was the minister at the time of the celebration with the Centennial Committee chaired by Ethel Longsdorf with the assistance of many members of the congregation to plan and have a successful celebration. The celebration was commemorated in the church Centennial Book.

School Superintendent and 296 people present.

Men's Bible Class - 1961

In 1976, to honor and celebrate the bicentennial of the United States, the first Fourth of July outdoor combined church services were held on the church lawn. This event with the Maroa United Methodist Church has continued for twenty-eight years.

To expand our community involvement, a food pantry was started in 1980 to provide basic food supplies for needy families in Maroa. In 2002 the pantry was expanded and opened on a weekly basis.

Five years later in 1985 the Christmas Food Basket program for Maroa was started. This was later taken over by the City of Maroa.

In 1982-83 the sanctuary, fellowship hall and the parsonage were redecorated.

With a large number of youth a part of the church family, the years from 1985 through 1989 had an active youth program under the very capable leadership of Glen and Bonnie Morgan to guide and help an energetic group of young people.

1994 brought the introduction of welcome kits that were assembled and delivered to newcomers to Maroa.

The public school needed space and a home for the 'Growing Together' program for children younger than pre-kindergarten kids. The church Sunday school rooms provided that need from 1999 through 2002.

Expanding on the Christmas Basket program, a Thanksgiving food basket program was initiated in 2001.

In 2002, with the encouragement of our present minister, Ron Rector, the church celebrated the 140th church anniversary with a one-day celebration of church service and festival held on the church lawn with an invitation to the community to participate. Later in 2002, a new roof was put on the church building. In Feb 2003 the church members repaired and redecorated the sanctuary and fellowship hall.

Long time Members of the Maroa Christian Church
60 Years: Grace Braden, Dorothy Himes, Edith Kennedy, Hugh Pulliam, Betty Wilkey, Doris Mikolitis, Owen Simpson, Maude Bird, Dorothy Braden, Iona Bratton, Richard Irvin, Mary (Vorce) Miller, Willard Shoemaker, Charlene Adkins, Donald Plankenhorn

50 Years: Bill Berry, Jack Hill, Naomi Owens, Luann Query, Carol Walden, Adrienne Haenny, Jim Hughes, Elsie Edwards, Marilyn McGinnis, Gloria Prescott, Charlotte Crabtree, Ivan Porter, Roger Sims, Kathy Hill

Ministers from 1862 through 2004
Dr. J. W. Thayer 1862; John W. Tyler 1863; John L. Wilson; C. B. Chambers 1865; John W. Tyler; T. W. Dunkerson 1867; George Owens 1868-69; I. Q. A. Houston 1870; J. V. Beekman 1871-76; E. J. Hart 1877; L. M. Robinson 1878; J. W. Beckon 1880
There are no definite records for the next twenty years, but some ministers were: Dudley Downs, Leroy Skelton, John Craycroft, Dr. Stevenson, and Charlie Rowe.
Records then show: S. Elwood Fisher 1901-1902; Percy T. Carnes 1903-05; W. H. Applegate 1906-07; W. H. Harding 1908-11; E. W. Sears 1912; H. G. Hurrell 1913-14; E. U. Smith 1915-18; I. F. Spainhower 1919; H. H. Jenner 1920-26; E. H. Willey 1926-

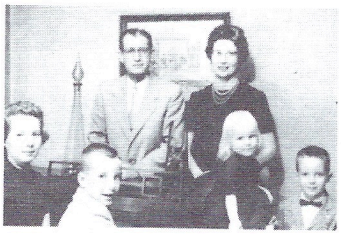
E. H. WILLEY—1926-1929

W. C. CHAPMAN—1929-1932

STANLEY SHIPPEY—1931-1932

ROY MILLER—1933-1938

FRED WILSON—1939-1943


JOHN WATSON—1949-1950
Ordained in our Church.

R. L. WILLIAMS—1947-1948

ROBERT SWANSON—1956-1957

C. L. DUXBURY—~~1957-1960~~
1951-1955

WAYNE R. SHEEKS—1951-1955
1957-1960

1961 Christian Church Sunday School

FORMER MINISTERS

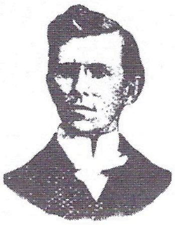
Dr. J. W. Thayer	1862
John W. Thyler	1863
John L. Wilson	1864
C. B. Chambers	1865
John W. Thyler	1866
T. W. Dunkerson	1867
George Owens	1868-69
I. Q. A. Houston	1870
J. V. Beekman	1871-76
E. J. Hart	1877
L. M. Robinson	1878
J. W. Beckman	1880

There are no definite records for the next 20 years. Some of the ministers were: Dudly Downs, Leroy Skelton, John Craycroft, Dr, Stevenson, Charlie Rowe

S. Elwood Fisher	1901-02
Percy T. Carnes	1903-05
W. H. Applegate	1906-07
W. H. Harding	1908-11
E. W. Sears	1912
H. G. Hurrell	1913-14
E. U. Smith	1915-18
I. F. Spainhower	1919
H. H. Jenner	1920-26
E. H. Willey	1927-28
W. C. Chapman	1929-30
Stanley Shippey	1931-32
Roy A. Miller	1933-38
Fred Wilson	1939-43
F. H. Head	1944-46
R. L. Williams	1947-48
John C. Watson	1949-50
C. L. Duxbury	1951-55
Robert E. Swanson	1956-57
Wayne Sheeks	1957-60
John Hammons	1960-

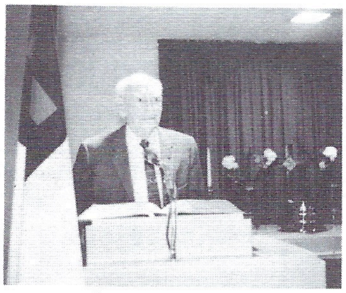
WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN PHOTOGRAPHS OF FIFTEEN OF THESE FORMER MINISTERS.

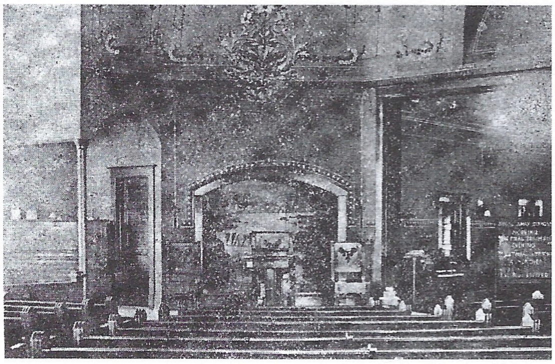
L. M. ROBINSON — 1878


S. ELWOOD FISHER
1901-1902

W. H. HARDING—1908-1911

E. U. SMITH — 1915-1918


H. H. JENNER—1920-1926
In chapel at Illinois Christian Home, Jacksonville, Ill.


1911 Church Sanctuary

29; W. C. Chapman 1929-32; Stanley Shippey 1931-32; Roy Miller 1933-38; Fred Wilson 1939-43; F. H. Head 1944-46; R. L. Williams 1947-48; John Watson 1949-50; C. L. Duxbury 1951-55; Robert Swanson 1956-57; Wayne R. Sheeks 1957-60; John Hammons 1960-62; Richard Randall 1962-65; Wallace Watson 1966-78; Terry Willis 1978-80; Bettie C. Griffith 1980 (interim); Edward Barnes 1980-91; William Hudspeth 1992 (interim); Laura Dargitz 1992-97; Bud Roberts 1997 (interim); Margaret McCullum 1998-2001; Ron Rector 2001 to the present

---

Officers of the Congregation 2004-2005

Chairman of the Congregation, Lowell Lucas; Vice-Chairman of the Congregation, Nancy Berry; Secretary of the Congregation, Cleo Leggett; Treasurer of the Congregation, Bob Gentle; Assistant Treasurer of the Congregation, Dale Leggett; Church Clerk, Tish Larsen

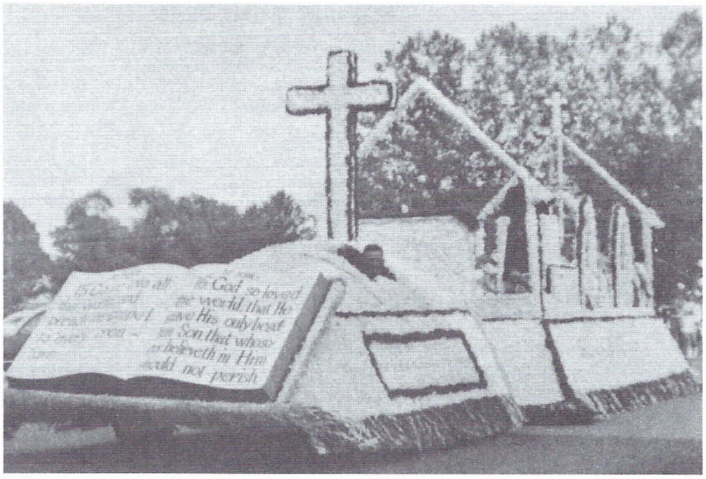
Elders: Kathy Hill, Diana Richardson, Mim Streich, John Berry, Ed Creager, Linda Gentry, Larry Larsen and Jerry Wallace

Diaconate: Bob Gentle, Dale Leggett, Dan Marsh, Kathy Marsh, Ken Stahl, Barb Wood, Craig Hill, Tish Larsen, Cleo Leggett, Joy Wallace, Gary Wood, Marilyn Gentle, Bill Gentry, Kathy Lewsader, Trace Wakeland and Andy

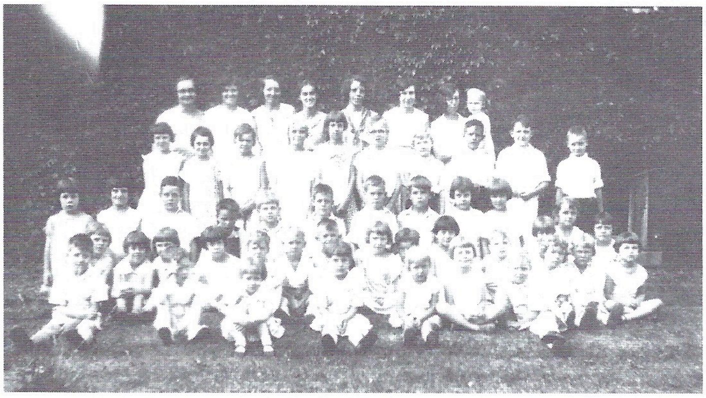
Wallace Trustees: Dale Leggett, Jerry Wallace and Marilyn Gentle.

Officers of the Church Board

Chairman of the Board, Larry Larsen; Vice-Chairman of the Board, Janie Kane; Secretary of the Board, Kathy Marsh; Chairman of Elders & Diaconate, Linda Gentry; Minister, Pastor Ron Rector



Christian Church entry in the Centennial Parade. Float entered in the Centennial parade by Mr. and Mrs. George L. Hunt, who owned the Popcorn Farm, Maroa, Illinois



Maroa Christian Church Sunday School Class 1932 Third row L to R: 1, Reuberta Grady, 3, Lena Mady Tolby, Kathryn Vantins, 6, Ralph "Perkie" Varvel, 8, Waller, 10 2nd row: 1, 2, Bill Jones, Dale Westerbrook, 5, Alan Patterson, 7, 8, 9, 10, Tirrell Stoutenborough front rows: John Mariane Osborn, Dolly Ventoies, Charlotte Creekmur, Billy Jo Vaugh, Tim Clough, John Ross Miller, Frances Bargo, Irene, Shipley Shirley Smith, Dick Meier, Mathew, Esther Osborne, Delle Margaret Liming

CIBS

WALTER J. (WALLY) KEMP
President

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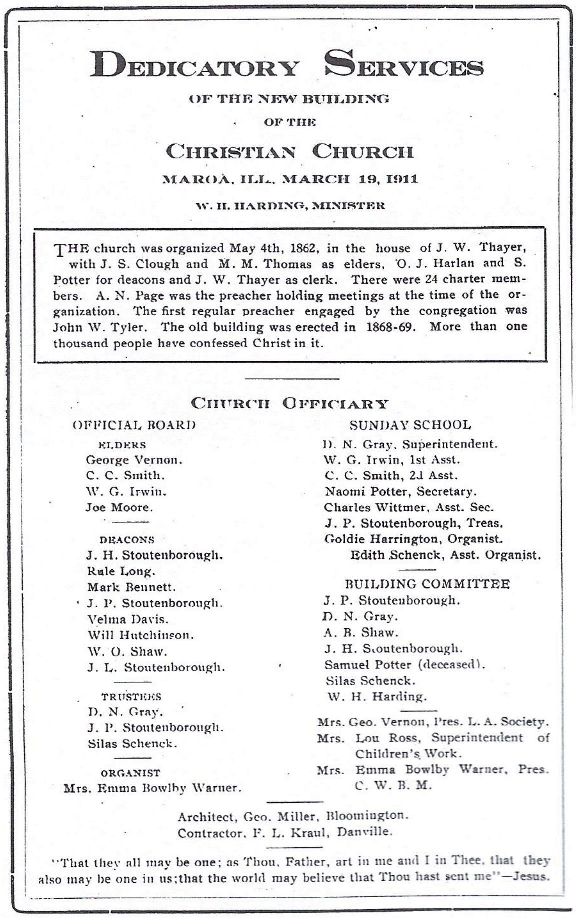
Herman & Ruth
Huffman



DEDICATORY SERVICES

OF THE NEW BUILDING

OF THE

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

MAROA, ILL., MARCH 19, 1911

W. H. HARDING, MINISTER

THE church was organized May 4th, 1862, in the house of J. W. Thayer, with J. S. Clough and M. M. Thomas as elders, O. J. Harlan and S. Potter for deacons and J. W. Thayer as clerk. There were 24 charter members. A. N. Page was the preacher holding meetings at the time of the organization. The first regular preacher engaged by the congregation was John W. Tyler. The old building was erected in 1868-69. More than one thousand people have confessed Christ in it.

CHURCH OFFICIARY

OFFICIAL BOARD

ELDERS

George Vernon.
C. C. Smith.
W. G. Irwin.
Joe Moore.

DEACONS

J. H. Stoutenborough.
Rule Long.
Mark Bennett.
J. P. Stoutenborough.
Velma Davis.
Will Hutchinson.
W. O. Shaw.
J. L. Stoutenborough.

TRUSTEES

D. N. Gray.
J. P. Stoutenborough.
Silas Schenck.

ORGANIST

Mrs. Emma Bowlby Warner.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

D. N. Gray, Superintendent.
W. G. Irwin, 1st Asst.
C. C. Smith, 2d Asst.
Naomi Potter, Secretary.
Charles Wittmer, Asst. Sec.
J. P. Stoutenborough, Treas.
Goldie Harrington, Organist.
Edith Schenck, Asst. Organist.

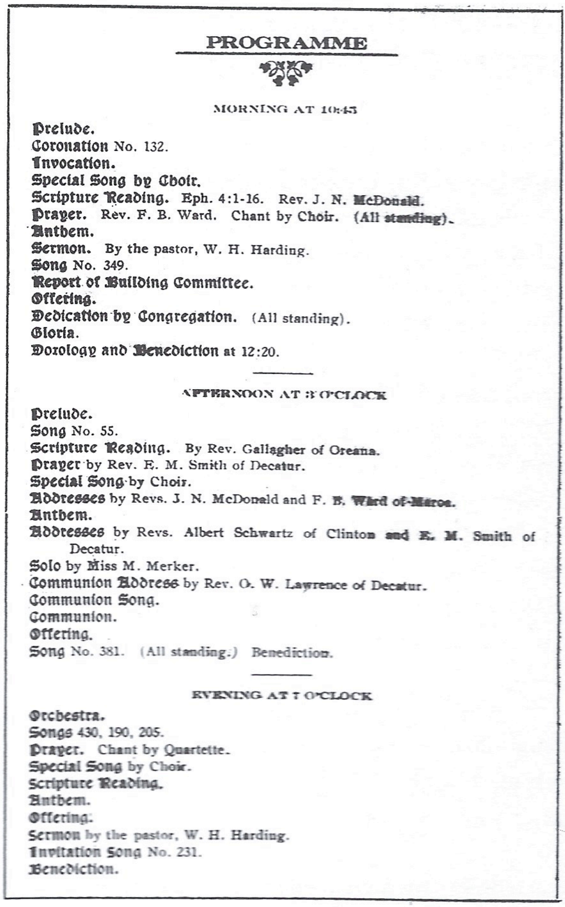
BUILDING COMMITTEE

J. P. Stoutenborough.
D. N. Gray.
A. B. Shaw.
J. H. Stoutenborough.
Samuel Potter (deceased).
Silas Schenck.
W. H. Harding.

Mrs. Geo. Vernon, Pres. L. A. Society.
Mrs. Lou Ross, Superintendent of Children's Work.
Mrs. Emma Bowlby Warner, Pres. C. W. B. M.

Architect, Geo. Miller, Bloomington.
Contractor, F. L. Kraul, Danville.

"That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in me and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that Thou hast sent me"—Jesus.



PROGRAMME

MORNING AT 10:45

Prelude.
Coronation No. 132.
Invocation.
Special Song by Choir.
Scripture Reading. Eph. 4:1-16. Rev. J. N. McDonald.
Prayer. Rev. F. B. Ward. Chant by Choir. (All standing).
Anthem.
Sermon. By the pastor, W. H. Harding.
Song No. 349.
Report of Building Committee.
Offering.
Dedication by Congregation. (All standing).
Gloria.
Doxology and Benediction at 12:20.

AFTERNOON AT 3 O'CLOCK

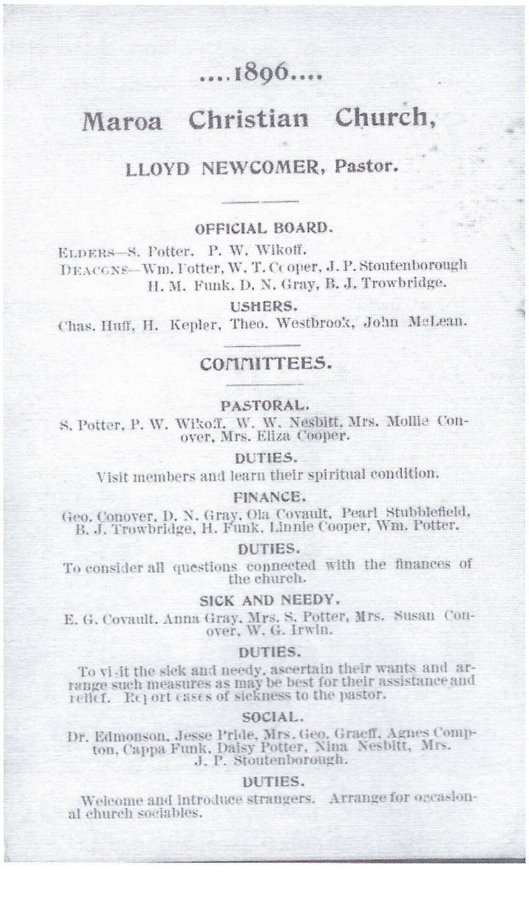
Prelude.
Song No. 55.
Scripture Reading. By Rev. Gallagher of Oreana.
Prayer by Rev. E. M. Smith of Decatur.
Special Song by Choir.
Addresses by Revs. J. N. McDonald and F. B. Ward of Maroa.
Anthem.
Addresses by Revs. Albert Schwartz of Clinton and E. M. Smith of Decatur.
Solo by Miss M. Merker.
Communion Address by Rev. O. W. Lawrence of Decatur.
Communion Song.
Communion.
Offering.
Song No. 381. (All standing.) Benediction.

EVENING AT 7 O'CLOCK

Orchestra.
Songs 430, 190, 205.
Prayer. Chant by Quartette.
Special Song by Choir.
Scripture Reading.
Anthem.
Offering.
Sermon by the pastor, W. H. Harding.
Invitation Song No. 231.
Benediction.

Cover of Christian Church dedication in 1911.

The program for the Christian Church dedication in 1911. It was a daylong celebration that was to be enjoyed by everyone.



....1896....

Maroa Christian Church,

LLOYD NEWCOMER, Pastor.

OFFICIAL BOARD.

ELDERS—S. Potter. P. W. Wikoff.
DEACONS—Wm. Potter, W. T. Cooper, J. P. Stoutenborough H. M. Funk, D. N. Gray, B. J. Trowbridge.

USHERS.

Chas. Huff, H. Kepler, Theo. Westbrook, John McLean.

COMMITTEES.

PASTORAL.

S. Potter, P. W. Wikoff, W. W. Nesbitt, Mrs. Mollie Conover, Mrs. Eliza Cooper.

DUTIES.

Visit members and learn their spiritual condition.

FINANCE.

Geo. Conover, D. N. Gray, Ola Covault, Pearl Stubblefield, B. J. Trowbridge, H. Funk, Linnie Cooper, Wm. Potter.

DUTIES.

To consider all questions connected with the finances of the church.

SICK AND NEEDY.

E. G. Covault, Anna Gray, Mrs. S. Potter, Mrs. Susan Conover, W. G. Irwin.

DUTIES.

To visit the sick and needy, ascertain their wants and arrange such measures as may be best for their assistance and relief. Report cases of sickness to the pastor.

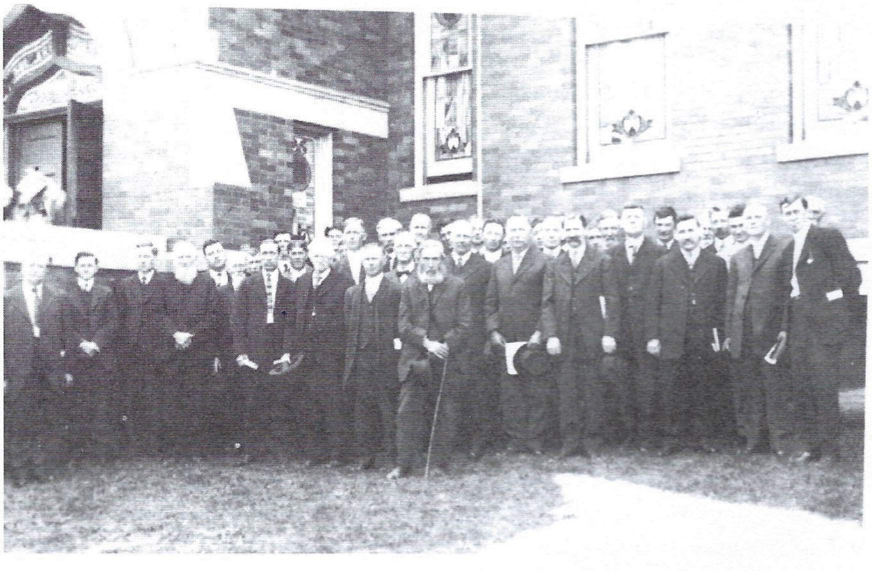
SOCIAL.

Dr. Edmonson, Jesse Pride, Mrs. Geo. Graeff, Agnes Compton, Cappa Funk, Daisy Potter, Nina Nesbitt, Mrs. J. P. Stoutenborough.

DUTIES.

Welcome and introduce strangers. Arrange for occasional church sociables.

A Bulletin from the Christian Church, 1896.
Courtesy of Larry Nix.



Christian Church Men's Bible Class - 1917.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MAROA

Mr. John Crocker of Jacksonville, Illinois, moved with his family to Maroa in November, 1854 to become the agent for the Illinois Central Railroad Company. This family of Presbyterians, with other's of this faith, held occasional religious services in their homes or the station house until 1859 when, by their efforts, a church was organized.

The organization of the Maroa Church was effected on Sunday, January 30, 1859 by Rev. A. T. Norton, the District Secretary of Church Extension and Home Missions for the West. On that day John Crocker and James McCann, Jr. were elected and ordained as Elders. The church was taken under the care of the Presbytery of Illinois (new church) at its session at Carrollton, Illinois, in April 1859, being the first New School Presbyterian Church organized in Macon County.

During- the next seven years services were not held regularly, the pulpit being filled by supply ministers every other Sunday or less often with meetings held in the school house. In 1860 Mr. Peleg Kent was ordained as Elder.

In the year 1864 plans were made to erect a church edifice on the site of the present Christian Church. The building was completed in 1867 and Rev. J. A. Hood was installed as the first pastor. The next year a steeple was added and a bell presented to the church by Elder John Crocker.

The church continued to grow and by 1909 had a membership of 206. On January 29, 1909 Rev. J. N. McDonald was installed as the twelfth ordained minister to fill the pulpit and on the next day a Golden Jubilee Banquet was held in the Maroa Opera House.

Rev. McDonald saw the need of a larger, more modern church and planned a vigorous campaign toward this goal. At this time the Elders were William Rainey, James H. Sterling, J. E. Wikoff, W. T. McLean and George Conover. The Trustees were John B. Stoutenborough, C. Y. Miller, Sr., Will Schenck, C. F. Schenck, M. E. Huston and J. Crocker. In less than a year these officers had succeeded in raising $33,931.74 needed for the construction of the new church.

The cornerstone laying was a big event. Business houses and schools were closed and a parade from the old church to the site of the new church preceded the cornerstone laying ceremonies. The parade included a band, Sunday School and Church members, Mayor and City Officials, School Board members, School Superintendent and teachers. Officers of the church and other church ministers. The church was dedicated in February 1911, a little more than a year after the laying of the cornerstone. The Manse was built in 1910. For several years after the church was completed it was used as a community center, where classes were held in gymnasium exercises, domestic science and manual training.

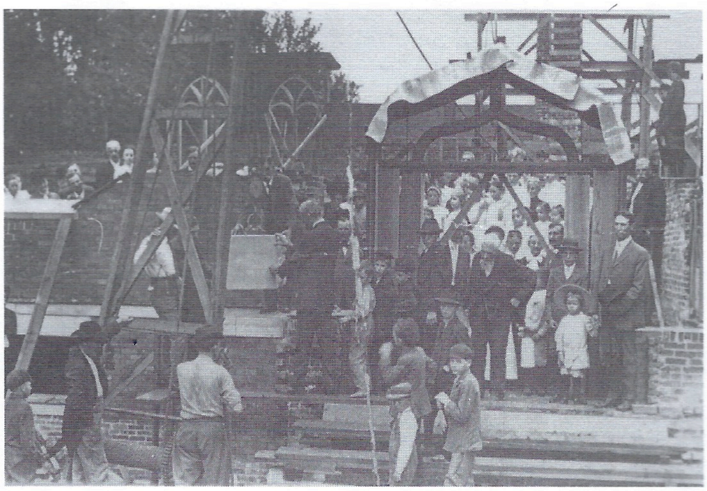
Presbyterian Church Maroa, Ill. 10707

1893 Picture of Presbyterian Church

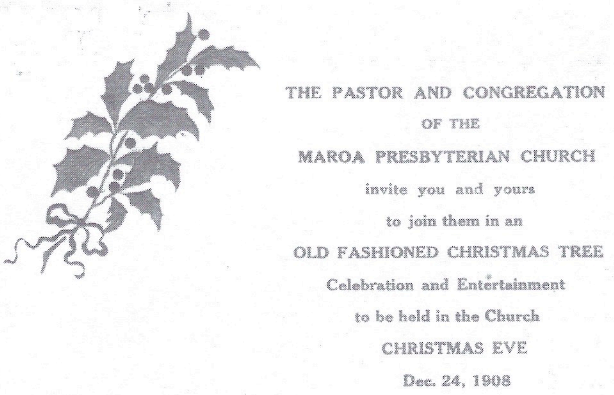
First
Presbyterian Church
Maroa, Illinois

Postcard of the Presbyterian church.

Due to difficulties which grew out of the depression, the church was closed in March 1938, opening again five years later. The ninetieth anniversary was celebrated in January 1949. In 1954, the Rev. Emerson Abendroth, Dean of Religious Education at Millikin University, conducted Sunday services,



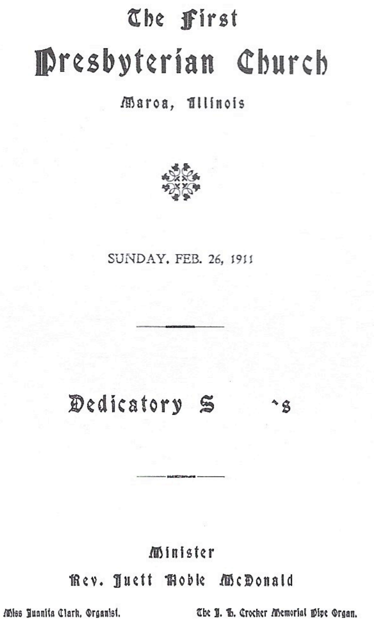
Cornerstone setting of the Presbyterian Church that was on the south west corner of Main and Walnut street. Photo courtesy of M&M Café



THE PASTOR AND CONGREGATION
OF THE
MAROA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
invite you and yours
to join them in an
OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS TREE
Celebration and Entertainment
to be held in the Church
CHRISTMAS EVE
Dec. 24, 1908

1908 Christmas Invitation

At that time the Elders were George Waller, Robert Stoutenborough, G. E. Stoutenborough, R. C. Stoutenborough, Paul Osborn and W. Lee Kempshall. Chas. Grant Stoutenborough and Bernard L. Myers were then elected and ordained to replace the late Blanche Dinwiddie and Carl Schenck who served as active Elders for many years.



The First
Presbyterian Church
Maroa, Illinois

SUNDAY, FEB. 26, 1911

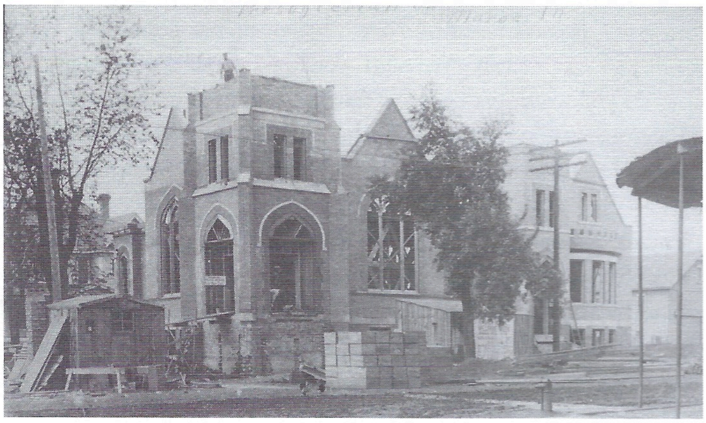
Dedicatory S s

Minister
Rev. Juett Noble McDonald

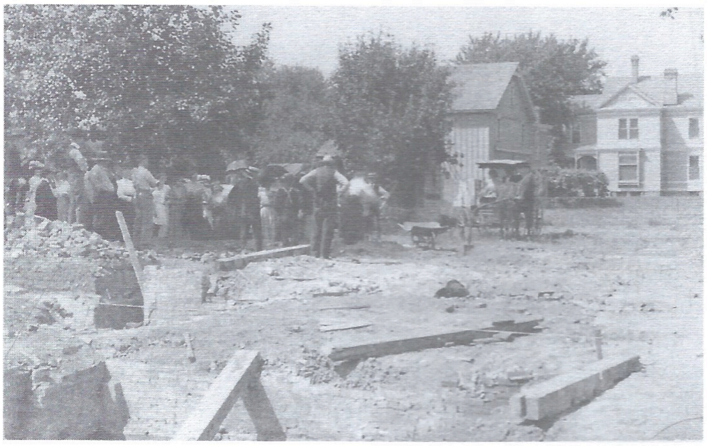
Miss Juanita Clark, Organist. The J. H. Crocker Memorial Pipe Organ.

THE REST OF THE STORY - Maroa Presbyterian Church by Wanda Myers

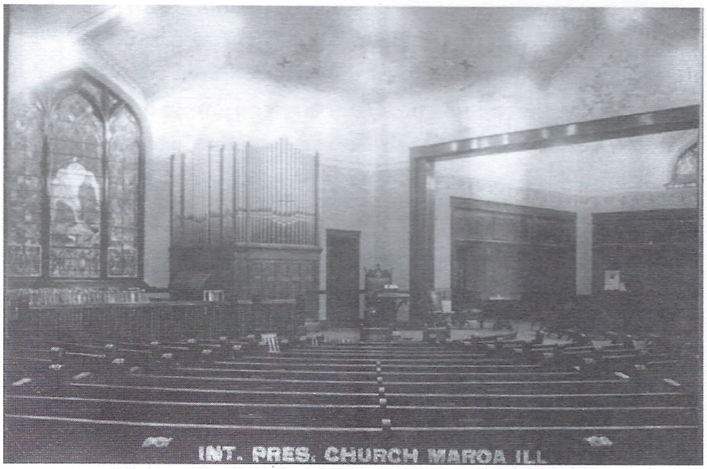
The Maroa Presbyterian Church was closed in 1938 and re-opened in January, 1949. My husband, Bennie and I were married in March, 1949 in the Maroa Methodist Church but went to church on Easter, as a newly married couple at the Maroa Presbyterian Church. Bennie and his family had always been members.



Picture of the building of the Presbyterian Church on the south west corner of Main and Walnut Street. circa 1900 Courtesy of Larry Nix.

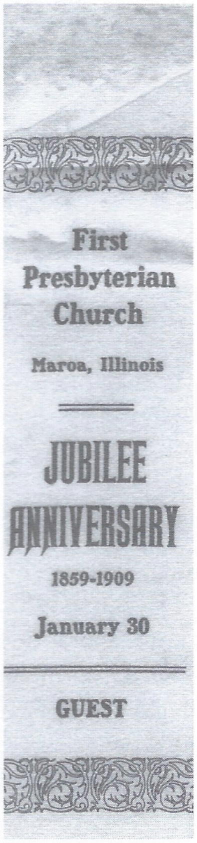


This picture of the building if the Presbyterian Church shows the foundation being built cir 1902.



The inside of the Presbyterian Church taken circa 1920.

I always remember Easter at the Methodist Church as a long, happy service, due to the baptism of all the babies. At that Presbyterian Easter service, not one baby was baptized! I asked, Naomi, my mother-in-law what happened to all of the babies? She laughingly said "Honey, Presbyterians don't have babies!!" She reminded me of all the families that had one child. To name a few, Ted and Mary Stoutenborough and son, Bill; Earl and Pearl Stoutenborough and son, Bob; Russell and Bernice Stoutenborough had Charles Grant and Bettie Lou, Helen and George Waller had two sons, Dr. George and Dr. James, B.I. and Naomi Myers had son, Bennie. In the next generation, Bennie and Wanda had four, Charles Grant and Barbara had three, Bill and Dottie had four, David and Helen Moyer had three, Leonard and Mary Hall had five. Better to fill a church!!



First
Presbyterian
Church
Maroa, Illinois

JUBILEE
ANNIVERSARY
1859-1909
January 30

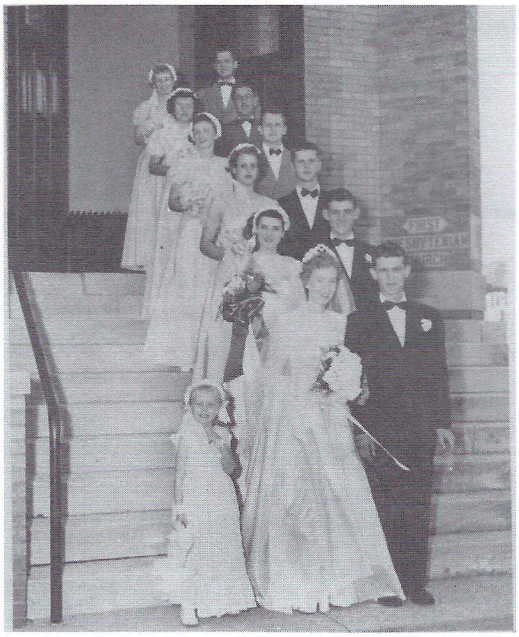
GUEST

This ribbon was part of the celebration during the Presbyterian Church Jubilee anniversary.

We had some great ministers. In 1949, Marvin Hedberg and family. In 1951, Rev. Haywood McCullough and wife,Nalda and their children. Bob and Pat Rooker and their children, Louis, David and Carol, came to share the Maroa Presbyterian Church. Finally , babies were baptized-there was a choir- weddings happened- funerals were inevitable - the years continued on. The church flourished in spirit, but dwindled in numbers.

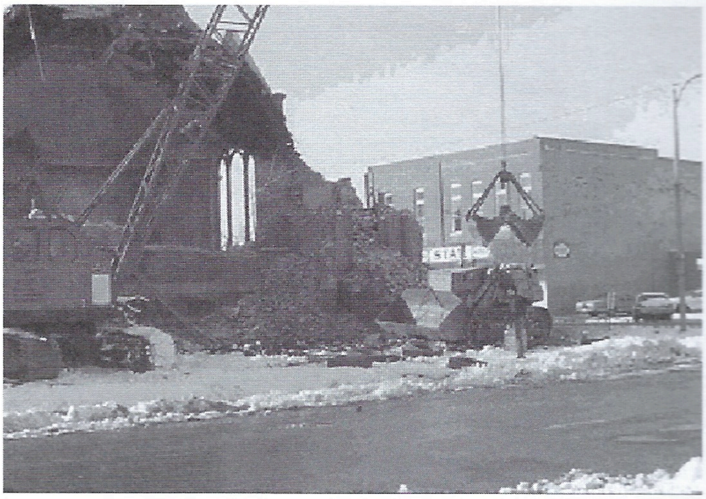
There was never enough money. At one time, Phillip Wing , Professor of Theology, at Millikin University filled in as an interim minister. Bob and Anne Clarke moved to Maroa. Bob finished college at Millikin as he carried out the church duties as our minister... He entered Seminary at McCormick Univ. in Chicago, coming home each Sunday to preach.

The church should have grown, but even though the young couples with young families spent many hours repairing, sanding, painting, teaching Sunday School , having coffees to recruit new memberss, it wasn't enough. The congregation still hung on and shared a young minister with the Argenta Presbyterian Church. It was a sad day when this young preacher announced that the Presbytery had voted to close the Maroa Presbyterian church.

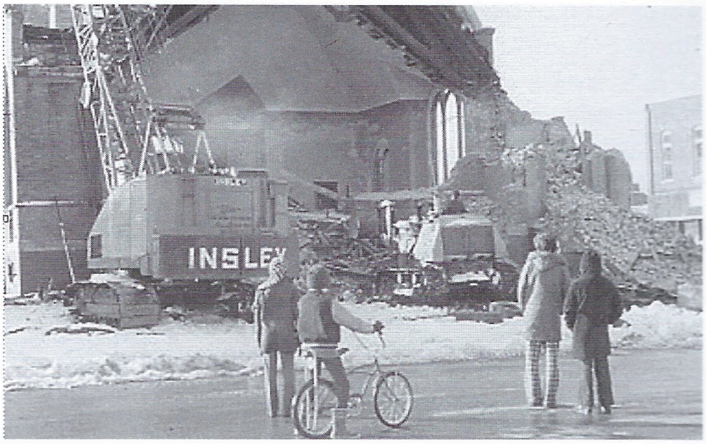


Wedding picture on the steps of the Presbyterian Church in 1949. Bride and groom are Barbara Bunner and John Shinn flower girl Valerie German, . Second row Phyllis Whitten, Robert Shinn, third row: Wilma Cook, Edward Tertocha, forth row: Harriett Bunner Bady, Louis Tertocha Fifth row: Patty Stoutenborough Smith, August Knitter, Last row: Alberta Bunner German, Robert Tertocha.

This was in 1962. Once again, the church was empty. Once in a while a local organist would come and give a Sunday afternoon concert on the beautiful pipe organ. As could be expected,, the building was vandalized. Someone took a butcher knife and drove it through a kitchen wall. Someone built a fire on the wooden floor in one of the Sunday School rooms.



A picture from 1975 of the Presbyterian church on the south west corner of Main and Walnut being torn down.



Another view of a sad day for many.

The church was put up for sale, and bought for an investment by Bob Wilson, editor of the local newspaper, "The Prairie Post". No one wanted to buy a church. He sold it in a few years to Gary Hughes, a former Maroa native. An investigation by the Illinois Presbytery showed that the church was slowly deteriorating. They voted to take out the stained glass windows and the oak pews. The pipe organ was removed . The congregation did not have a vote.

On Nov. 28, 1975, the church was torn down. It took three days. I watched from our Hardware store across the street with tears streaming down my face. A beautiful Maroa landmark was gone. The happy memories will remain. We don't worship a church or a certain pastor. We still worship a God that watched over us as we drifted away to join congregations in other churches.. This article tries to bring closure to "What ever happened to the Maroa Presbyterian Church"?

Written by Wanda Myers for the 2004 Susquecentennial Yearbook in celebration of 150 years in the village of Maroa, Illinois. Information was taken from Prairie Post newspapers loaned to me from the Maroa Public Library. Pictures taken by Bob Gentle the day the church was torn down. Many phone calls and memories were shared with former Presbyterians, especially, Bill and Dottie Stoutenborough.

Thanks to all of you who helped me to remember.

MAROA BIBLE CHURCH

Maroa Bible Church first called Maroa Church of Christ, was organized January 5, 1947 at the home of Mr. And Mrs. Otis Preston. On January 6, the seventy-nine charter members purchased and paid for a parsonage and an adjoining lot on which to build the church. On January 23, the first pastor and his wife, Dr. and Mrs. F. H. Head, moved into the parsonage. That same day, the basement was dug and work was begun on the new church building. Members donated cash and labor, and the work progressed rapidly. By May 25, though still unfinished, services were conducted in the building. Until this date, the congregation had been meeting in the basement of the parsonage. The building was dedicated on December 5, 1947.

Dr. Head agreed to stay for one year as pastor, but faithfully served one and one half years. Shortly after he left, the name of the church was changed to the Maroa Bible Church and Rev. Richard Killian of Whiting, Indiana, came as pastor and served for six years.

Since then, pastors have included: Rev. C. O. Grubbs, Jan. 1955 – Jan. 1960 (now deceased); Rev. A. H. Barbee, April 1960 – March 1963; Rev. Leo Sherrill, June 1963 – Nov 1966; Rev. Lawrence Mullinax, Nov. 1966 – Nov 1971; Rev. J. W. Long, Dec 1971 – Jan 1973; Rev. Earl Lightfoot, July 1973 – Dec 1981; Rev. Stephen Lucas, Sept. 1982 – April 1988; Rev. Mark Soto, Aug. 1988 – Aug 1990; Rev. David T. Jones, Dec 1990 – Oct 2002; Rev. Mitchell Jacobs, Aug 2004 to present.

The church has been remodeled three times and enlarged twice. The old parsonage was sold and moved away and a new one built in 1955. It too has been enlarged and remodeled.

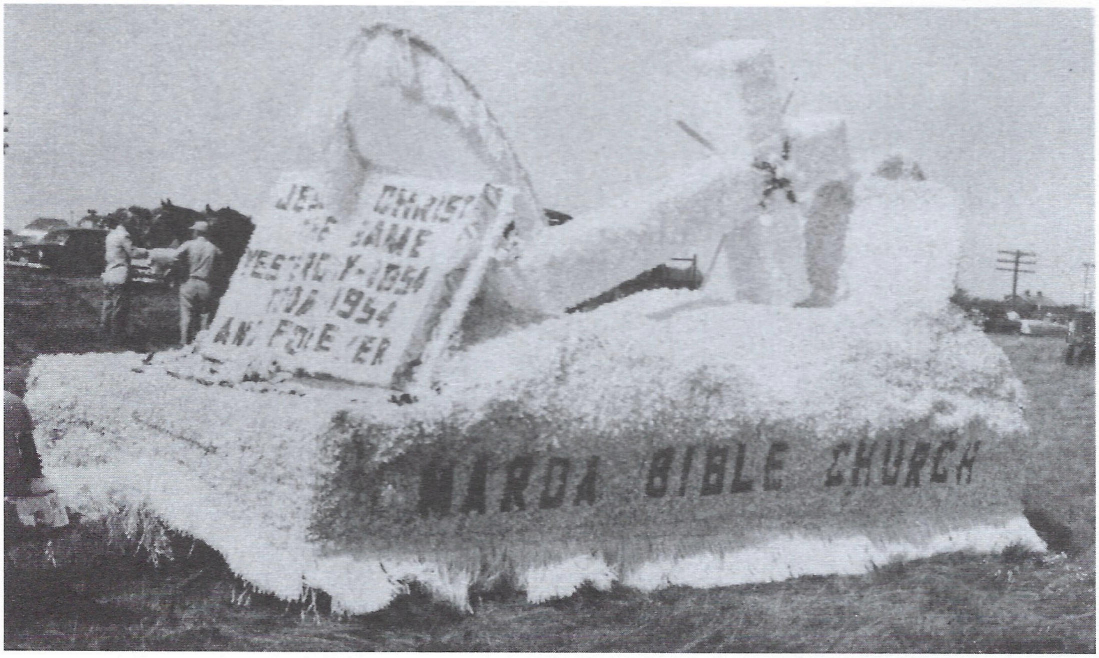
The inside of the Bible Church at West Jackson Street in Maroa in December at the time of it's dedication.

In January 1997, the church celebrated our 50th year anniversary. Several former Pastors were in attendance. A complimentary meal was served at noon in the High School Gym. The "Golden Jubilee Programs" included music by Joan Stoutenborough and Mary Mullinax. The program messages were given by Rev. James Stoutenborough and Rev. Earl Lightfast.

They are now starting their 14th year of the AWANA program for boys and girls from the age of 3 until High School. The church also continues to partially support a number of missionaries, a tradition that started in the early 50's. It is the desire of the church to continue to broaden its missionary endeavors.

It is the hope and prayer of Maroa Bible Church that it will always be a lighthouse in Maroa to the glory of our Lord.

The church has seen several of its members go into Christian service. These include: Norma Norris, Leonard Mee, Esther Kay (Osborn) Sapoch, Ronnalee (Shafer) Fisher, Mr. & Mrs. John Gray, Dr. Richard Grubbs, Mr. & Mrs. Herb Adams, Mr. & Mrs. James Stoutenborough, Tirrel (Stoutenborough) Van Geldren, Harriet (Grubbs) Wilbur, Millicent (Grubbs) Young, Mr. & Mrs. Ted Shickley, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Romesburg.



Float entered by the Bible church in Maroa Centennial parade. It won first place amongst church floats.

MY CHURCH

(Late October, 1957 - Centennial year; completion of tuck-pointing)

The autumn wind blows leaves of red and gold about my feet,
As standing here 'neath warm October sun, I look across the street,
To where my church, her walls but recently made bravely new —
Stands calm, serene, and beautiful, beneath a sky of blue.

I say "my church", and yet have I the right to call it so,
When others planned and built it, over half a century ago?
Then — I did not know this town was here, long, long before
I ever walked these quiet streets, or entered in one friendly door.

So, 'twas otter hearts than mine, idio dared to dream, and make their dream come true;
The dream this lovely church could rise, so those they never knew,
Might, on a Sabbath morning, enter through its gracious door,
And there find peace and solace, and their faltering faith restore.

One can be sure they planned it well — those men of faith and dreams;
One sees it in the clean cut walls, the sturdy Gothic beams,
Whose silent testimony is that not for themselves alone
They built, but future generations — for those they'd never known.

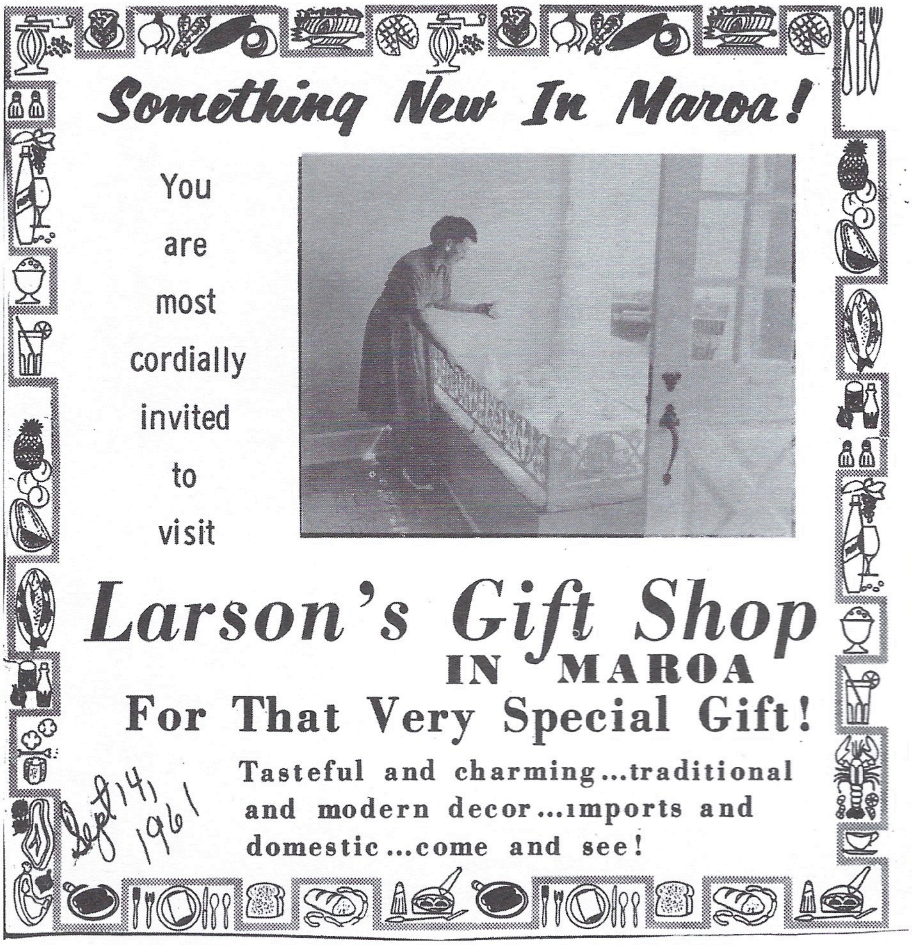
I take no credit for this house of God I've dared to call my own,
I had no part in building it; I laid no brick or stone,
Nor helped provide the lovely colored windows there
whose silent benediction is free for all to share.

This being so, how can I feel I have the right to call this church my own,
When it was built by others, most of whom I've never known?
The answer? As surely as I feel the autumn sun, and see above the sky's eternal blue,
That surely do I know within my heart this to be true;
That those who dared to dream and build so well so long ago,
Would want that I should call it mine, would truly have it so.

They only ask their dream be kept alive, to keep on coming true;
That their lovely house of God remain for those they never knew,
So still future generations may enter through its door
And in the quiet sanctuary renew their faith once more.

So — as the wind swirls leaves of red and gold about my feet,
Here in the warmth of autumn sun, I look across the street
And see my church, her walls but recently made bravely new,
Stand calm, serene, and beautiful beneath a sky of blue.

Ada Shaw



Something New In Maroa!

You
are
most
cordially
invited
to
visit

Larson's Gift Shop
IN MAROA
For That Very Special Gift!

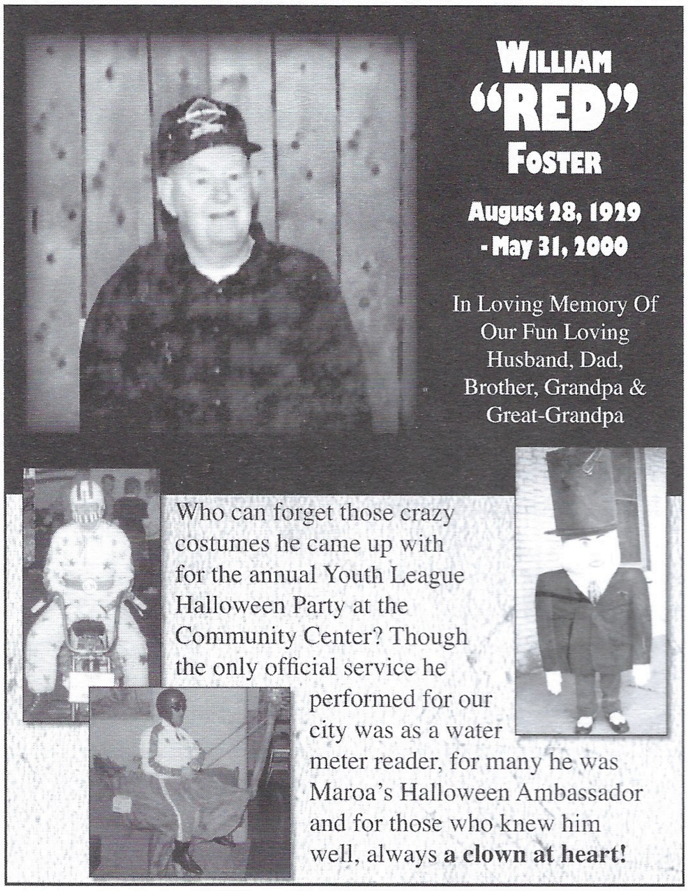
Tasteful and charming...traditional and modern decor...imports and domestic...come and see!

Sept 14, 1961

TIDBIT

I enjoyed the times that I was able to ride in the parades in different towns along with other committee members. It was a thrill to look on up the road as we traveled along to see the numerous people lined up along watching the parade and to be able to pick out so many that I knew as I glanced around at the crowd.

Joy F. Gardner, Sesquicentennial committee member, age 65.



WILLIAM
"RED"
FOSTER

August 28, 1929
- May 31, 2000

In Loving Memory Of
Our Fun Loving
Husband, Dad,
Brother, Grandpa &
Great-Grandpa

Who can forget those crazy costumes he came up with for the annual Youth League Halloween Party at the Community Center? Though the only official service he performed for our city was as a water meter reader, for many he was Maroa's Halloween Ambassador and for those who knew him well, always **a clown at heart!**

TIDBITS

Back before Highway 51 went to the west side of town, the kids could go out to the creek and play on a train trestle and another bridge of which only I beams remained. We built forts and spent entire days out there playing. Now with 51 its all gone.

LaMance Thoms Age: 38

I was a "papa's girl". I went with him on trips to the country, which for the daughter of Dr. W. T. McLean meant going to visit patients. Often the trip was in horse and buggy. The buggy was used for several years after the Gentle's had a car, because you could not get around on those muddy roads by car".

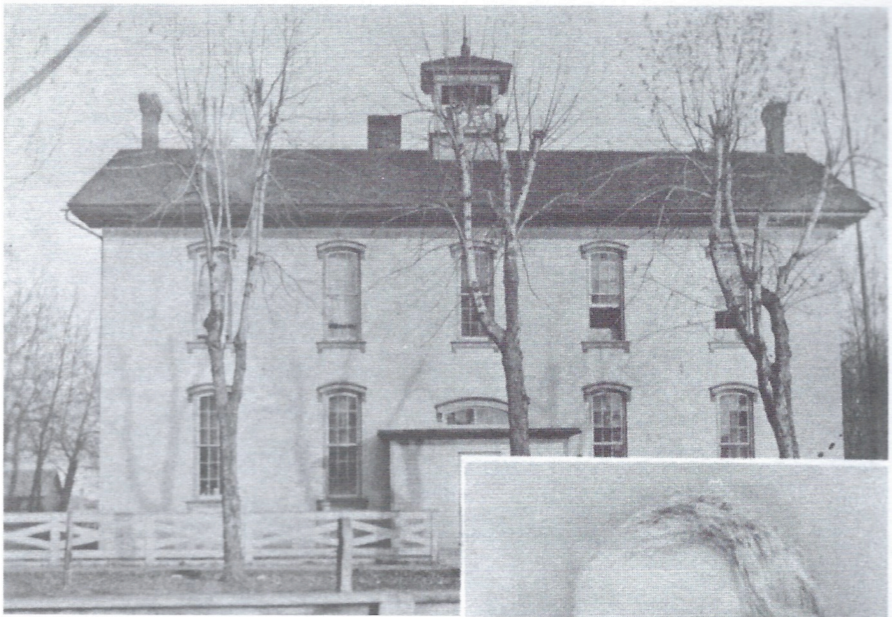
Louise Gentle (McLean) Age: 108 in January 2000

MAROA SCHOOLS

by Margaret Leach, 1976

The first school in Maroa Township was taught by Thomas Shaw in 1852. We don't know where it was located. The first building erected for a school was Ridge School in the third mile west of Maroa in 1856. It was built by Joseph S. Clough and the first teacher was Alvin Woodward. First teacher in town was Robert Collins.

First school in Maroa-1858-was held in a railroad building used to house railroad workers who built the railroad through here. Building stood on railroad ground east of the railroad and west of the Hedger residence (about where the Oscar Plummers now live). Had about 24 pupils (only held one year here), First school house built in Maroa was in the summer of 1859, a frame building on lot 3, block 8 of S. Locust St.-north part of ground where present grade school building stands (1901). The teacher was James McCann, 1859-60. The next year (1860-61) the teacher was Mr. Hawke who died of typhoid fever. Also, on March 31, 1861 (Easter Sunday) a severe windstorm struck Maroa and did a good deal of damage. It lifted the schoolhouse off its foundation and carried it 10 feet east-badly racked. Temporary quarters for the rest of the year, or maybe school closed for that year. Building was repaired in time for the next school year, 1861-62. Miss Mary Bassett was the teacher.

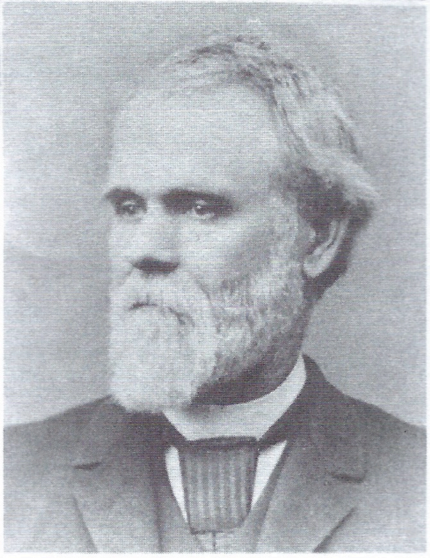


Public school completed in 1867.

The school consisted of three directors. There were many changes in the school board, but some of the men who served were Joseph Jones, Garrett Schenck, 0. J, Harlan, John Orr, John Williams, and Mayer Freedman.

In 1865-66 the school was larger and two teachers were needed (in one room school) and a study in concentration was needed by the pupils to keep their minds on their own class. A new building was needed, so in 1866, lot 4 of block 8 was bought. These lots were 80' x 160', so the school grounds were 160 ft square. The old building was moved to "the hill" where Dr. McLean's house later stood. School was held there one year while new four-room brick building was erected. Later, the old school house was bought by Mr. Crocker and moved to south side of Main Street and used for business purposes.

The new brick school was two story, had four rooms, four chimneys and no furnace. East wing of two rooms was added 20 years later. The first principal was C. A. McLean, grandfather of Mrs. George Gentle, who received $60 per month and the assistant was paid $50. Lower grade teachers were paid $40 and $30 respectively. School lasted nine months. 1869-70 brought more changes in teachers. Edwin Philbrook was principal at $85 per month. The other salaries were $60, $50, and $45 respectively.



Dr. C. A. McLean, First Grade School Principal. He was born in Fleming County, Kentucky in 1838. He married Lucy Taylor and they came to Maroa in 1865. He taught in the Maroa Schools and later went to medical school and afterwards practiced medicine here.

In 1872-73 there were more changes in teachers and the school board and salaries were reduced. James Kirh, principal, received $80 per month and the others $60, $45, and $40. In 1874-75 the school was overcrowded so a room over the drug store was used for school for the younger pupils for half of that year.

In 1875 a new primary room was built that was a frame building out in the yard just behind the brick building-a one room structure. Solon Royal was now principal and he received $90 per month. E. J. Carter had the grammar school department, receiving $50 per month. Others received $45. In April of 1878 maple trees were planted all around the schoolyard.

Era of economy again in 1879-salaries cut to $80, $45, $40, $25 per month. There was a reaction to that and in 1882-83 more ground was purchased ($500 for two acres and salaries were raised).

We don't know exactly when they began teaching high school subjects, but it wasn't until 1883 that there were any graduates. In that year there were 8. In 1884, none, 4 in 1885, 8 in 1886, and none in 1887. In 1887-88 a two-room addition was built to the brick building and another teacher added. In 1888 there were six gradu-

W. C. "Ted" Dine, Janitor for almost 52 years 1863-1947.

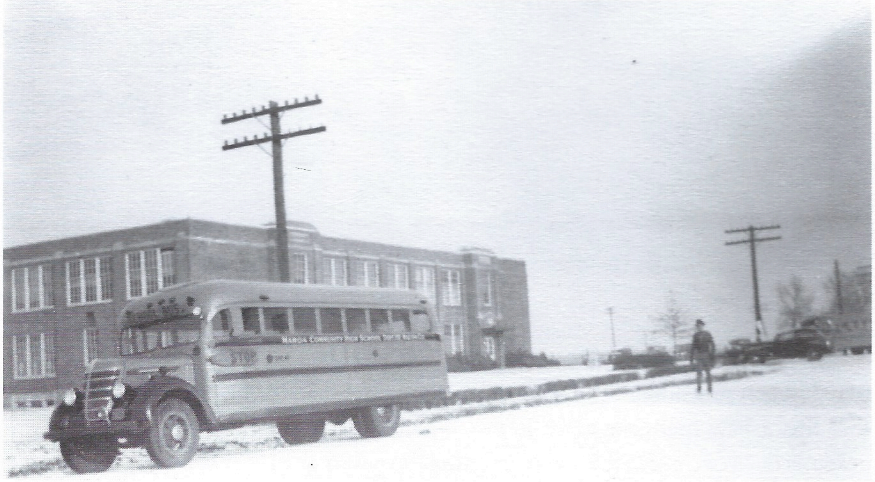
ates, and six in 1889.

In 1890, the frame building was reopened and used for primary grades again. In 1890 there were no graduates. Also in 1890 a law was passed requiring a president and a six member Board of Education instead of three directors. An attempt to heat the building with a hot air furnace was made and tried for three years, but was unsuccessful. Then a steam heating plant was put in. Ted Dine was hired as janitor and served for 52 years-from 1893 to 1947.

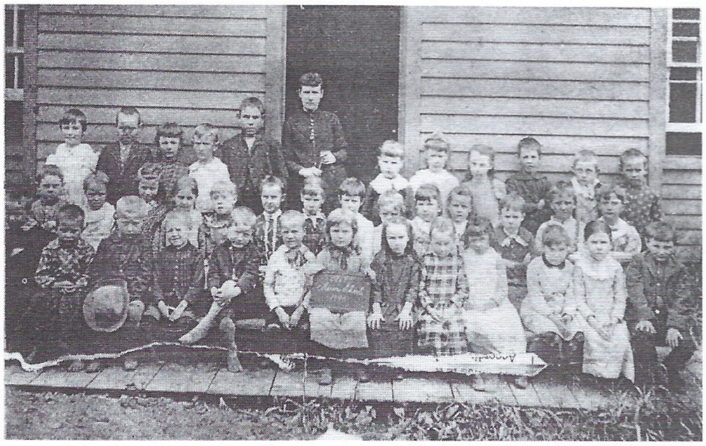
B. F. Shipley was principal for seven years-1887-1893. He later became an attorney and lived the rest of his life in Maroa. In 1893 there were 13 graduates from the high school. The town kept growing and in 1896 another room was added to the frame primary building. There were two primary grades and two teachers there.

In 1899 important changes were made on the second floor of the brick building to make an assembly room large enough for the entire high school in one room. In1900 two women were elected to the school board for the first time. In 1901, there were eight teachers with nearly 350 pupils (40 per teacher) and by that time the high school assembly had electric lights, a piano, and a telephone in the lower hall. Also, a library.

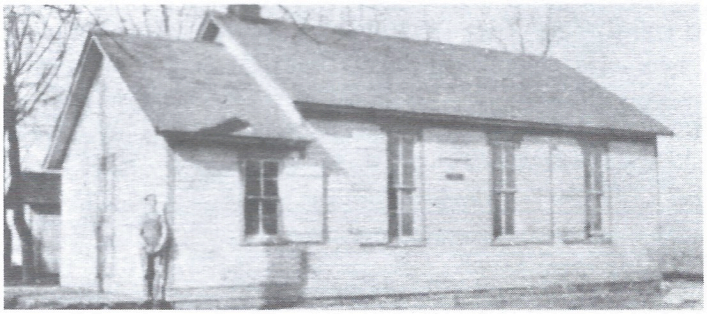
During 1914-15, the present brick building was erected. It contained twelve classrooms, an assembly, a small gymnasium, and was considered really good for that time. In 1940 the Maroa elementary school was first in Illinois to receive a Certificate of Superior Rating under a new Program of Recognition. Loren Lewis was principal at this time. In the spring of 1947, about fourteen grade schools in Maroa Township and the south part of Dewitt County were consolidated with the Maroa Grade School and were known as the Maroa Community Consolidated School. Two buses were purchased during the summer and the children were brought to town to school. The next spring a new law changed the system again and the grade and high school districts were consolidated under one Board of Education forming the Community Unit.

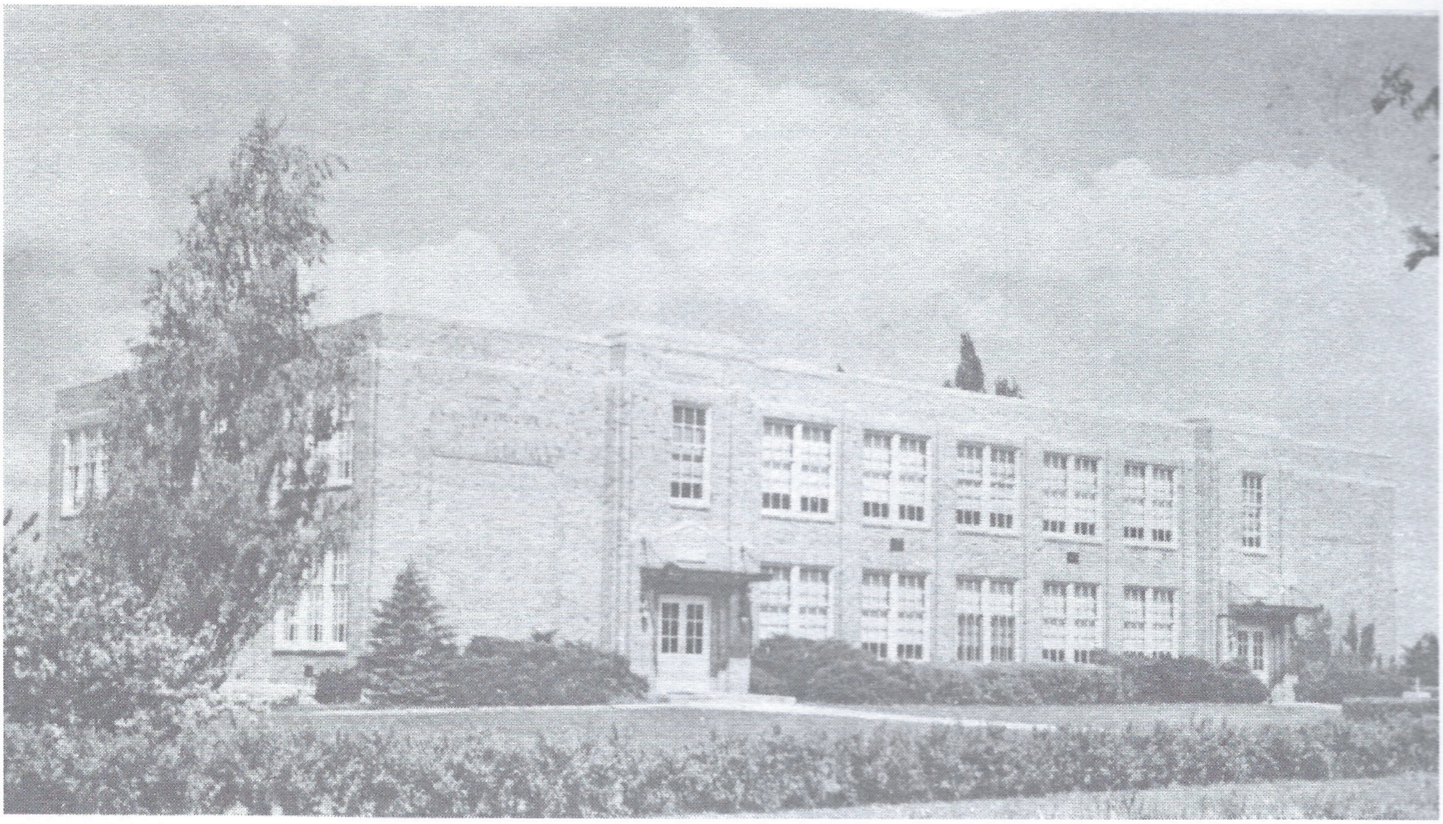


Edwin Braden is walking to get to drive the bus. The buses started transporting the students in 1940 for the school district.


This 1890 picture of Maroa Grade School was taken in front of the small frame building which accommodated the lower grades, stood east of the brick school house (the southeast corner of Main and Locust)
Front row l-r Rex Funk, Fred Reining, Fred Young, Carlos Moore, Bert Phillips, Chase Trowbridge, Ruby Williams, Ada Lowe, Goldie Cooper, Sadie Jones (Link), Amy Funk, Nellie Meeks, Andrew Luallen.
Middle row: Lee Kempshall, Nettie Ferree, Mamie Snow, ? Brintlinger, Draxie Smelz (App), Nora Alberty, Ora Davis, Agnes Schenck (Slater), A. Cooper, Emma Bogle (Morgan), Pearl Ludwick, Lottie Reining (Ritter), Vernon Gessamon, Iva Bowden (Malone).

The school building was soon overcrowded and in 1953 four classrooms and a gymnasium were added on the south-greatly enlarging the Maroa Grade School. The old gymnasium was converted


American School



Picture of the High school built in 1931. Picture taken in 1954.

to a kitchen and lunchroom for the hot lunch program, but before this a new high school had been built. The high school and grade school were combined in administration. When the new building was erected in 1914-15, the grades used the first floor and the high school used the second floor.

In 1920 the high school was organized as a community high school district No.151 with a separate Board of Education. The school building was not large enough so a new high school was built at the west edge of town in 1931. It was opened for school in March of that year with an enrollment of 146. The cost of that building was $70,000. With the equipment, the total cost was $90,000. The school continued to grow. In 1936-37 the south basement and shower rooms were completed at a cost of $20,000. A full-time agriculture department was added in 1937-38. A public address system was installed about 1940, under the instruction of Mr. Keyes and the student radio club.

During the war, World War II, there were sudden changes forced upon the school. Transportation was curtailed to the bare necessities of travel to and from school. School term was shortened to eight months with a longer school day to aid the manpower shortage on the farms. Military training through the government sponsored Victory Corps was introduced during the war years. Principal W. D. Keyes and Melvin J. Nicol, agriculture instructor, acted as instructors for this course.

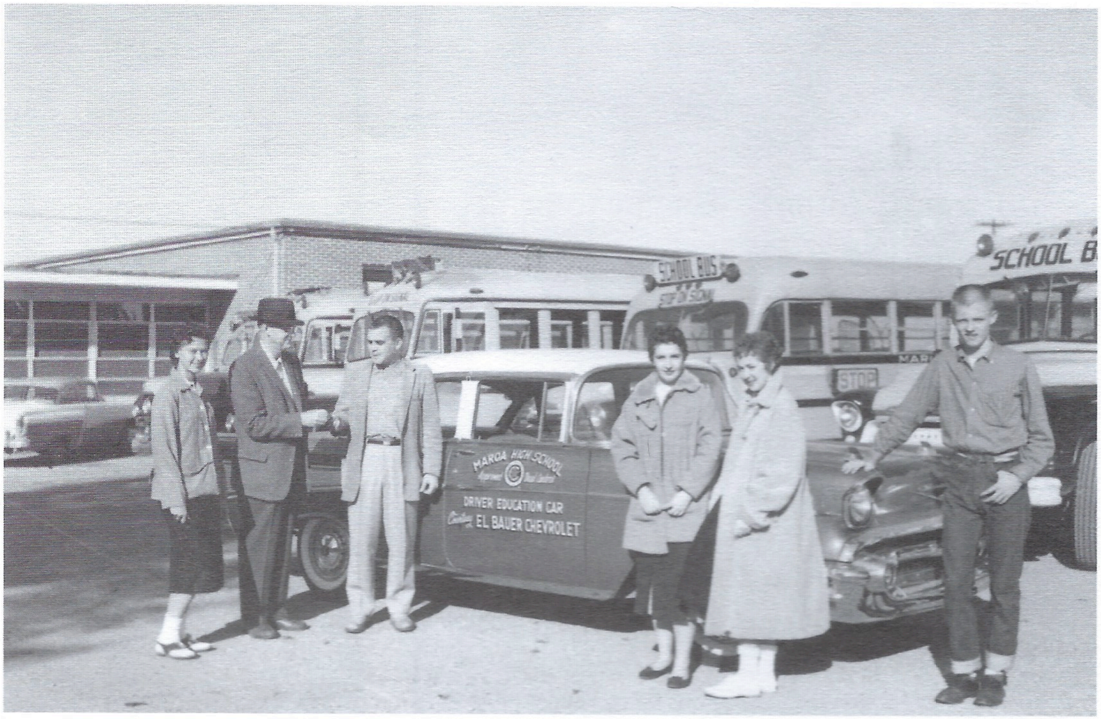
In 1946, chemistry was added to the curriculum with equipment costing about $3000. In 1947, due to a new school law, the Community Unit was formed, consolidating the high school and grade school districts under one Board of Education. Maroa High School district was small at this time and a great effort was made to acquire other sections of non-high territory so as to increase the enrollment of the school. During this time a full three-year Home Economics course was added. Spanish was introduced and more commerce courses were added. In 1946-47 the Maroa High School band was started. The school had long ago had a high school orchestra led by Mrs. D. M. Dewhirst, but there had been years in between when the high school had no band.

Another building program was necessary. In the early 1950's there was constructed a new farm shop, laboratory classrooms, industrial arts shop and drawing room, and two additional regular classrooms added to the north end of the high school building. In 1954 several new business machines were installed in the commerce department. The newest building has been the addition of a Junior High School, built in 1973, just south of the high school building and a new athletic field has been developed near by.

At the present time, the high school has an enrollment of 330 with a staff of 19. An enrollment of 360 is expected for the year 1976-77. Junior High has an enrollment of 170 students and a staff of 7 teachers. Grade Schools have an enrollment of 232 with a staff of 13 teachers. The present head of our school unit is Richard Irvin. He is a Maroa boy who went through the schools here and graduated about 1943. The schools have grown as the town has grown, so that through all the history of the Maroa schools the town has strived to meet the needs of the children and the young people of the community.

Margaret Leach was a member of the History Panel for the Maroa Bicentennial Commission. The panel discussion was held in March of 1976. The following pages are notes of her part of the discussion, which are being placed, along with a tape recording of the report, in the Maroa Township Library. Mrs. Leach was a former Macon County schoolteacher southeast of Maroa at the Harmony School. She obtained her information from a catalog of the Public Schools of Maroa published by order of the Board of Education, June 1901, and the Maroa Centennial Book published in 1954.

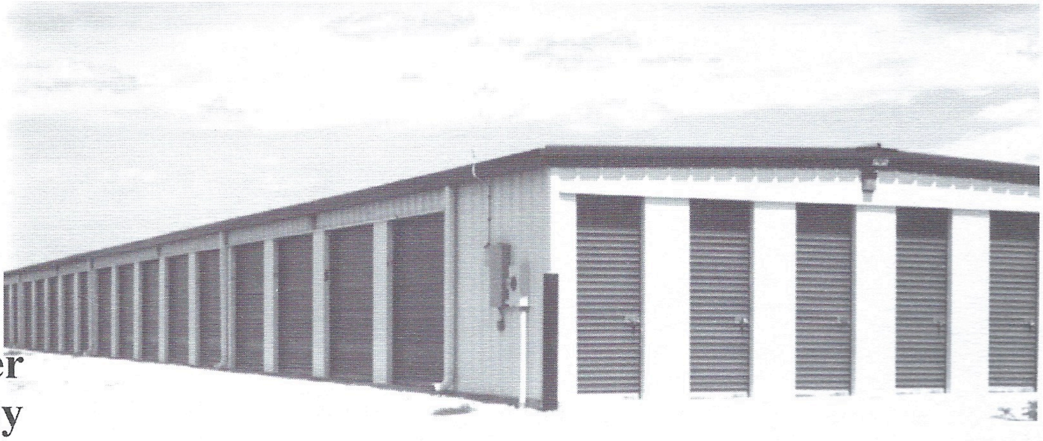
Mrs. Leach is now retired and living in Maroa.



Maroa school drivers Education car in 1957. Left to right, Iantha Housel, Mr. Kitowski, Herman Edwards, Lynnette Morgan, Karen Brady, R. Hilliard.

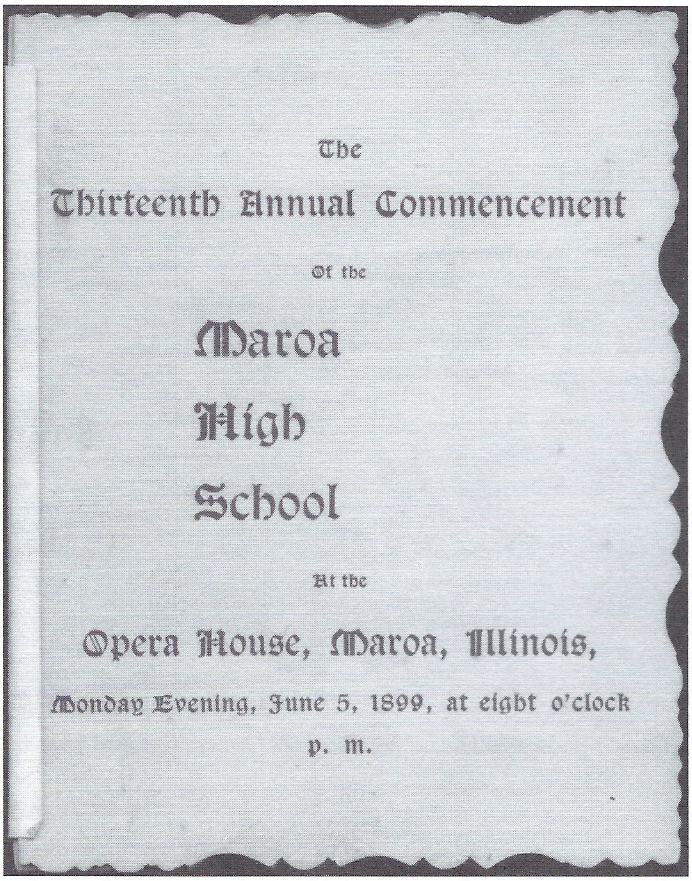
**Congratulations
Maroa
150 years!**

**Its out of the weather
and out of your way
at:**

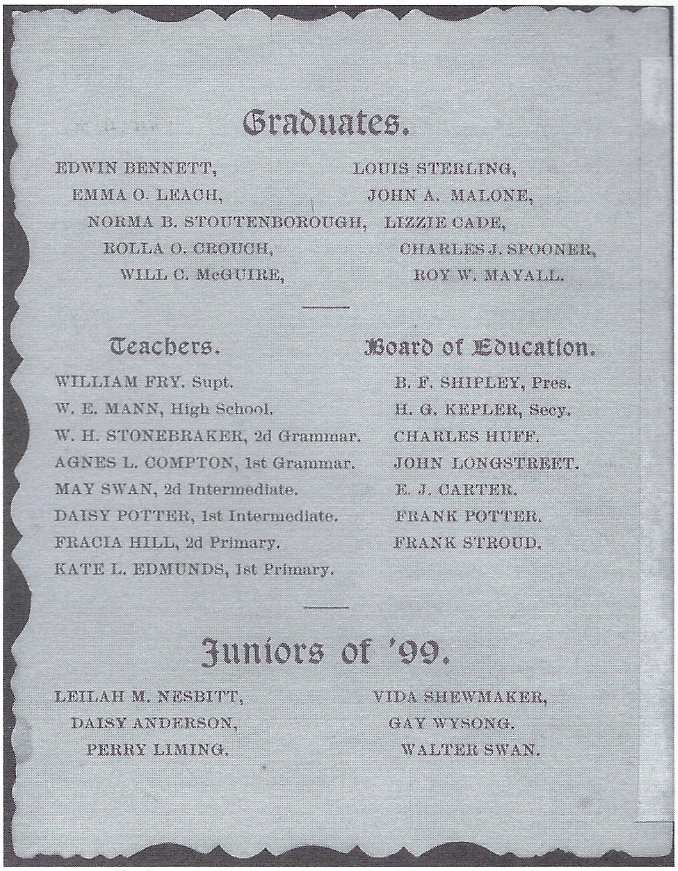


SPACEMAKERS
SELF STORAGE
794-3717 -OR- 794-5032

**611 North Wood Street
(Old 51 North)
Maroa, Illinois
Sue Rogers
794-3717
Tom Rogers
794-5032**



The
Thirteenth Annual Commencement
Of the
Maroa
High
School
At the
Opera House, Maroa, Illinois,
Monday Evening, June 5, 1899, at eight o'clock
p. m.



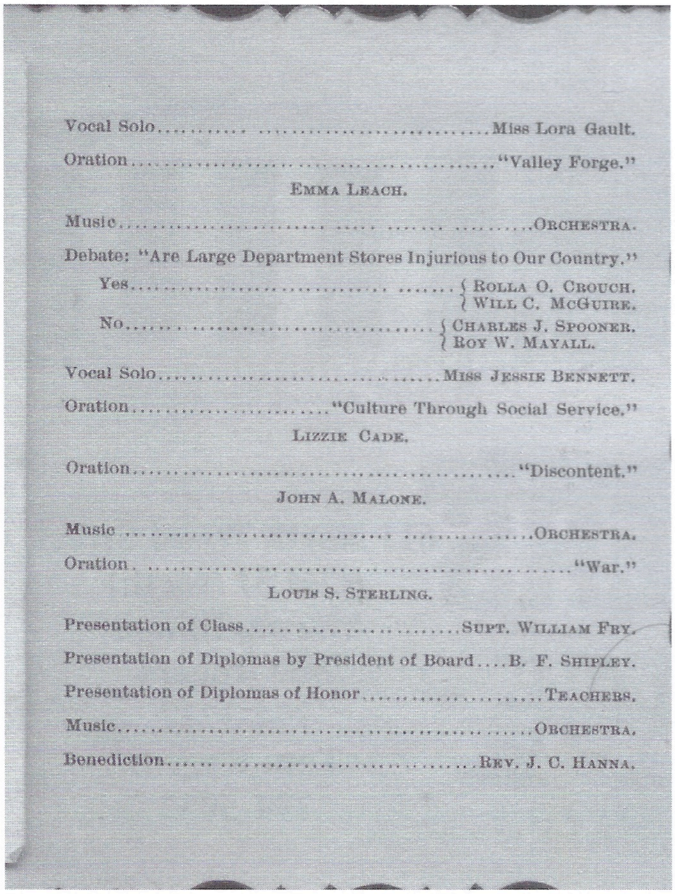
Graduates.

EDWIN BENNETT,	LOUIS STERLING,
EMMA O. LEACH,	JOHN A. MALONE,
NORMA B. STOUTENBOROUGH,	LIZZIE CADE,
ROLLA O. CROUCH,	CHARLES J. SPOONER,
WILL C. McGUIRE,	ROY W. MAYALL.

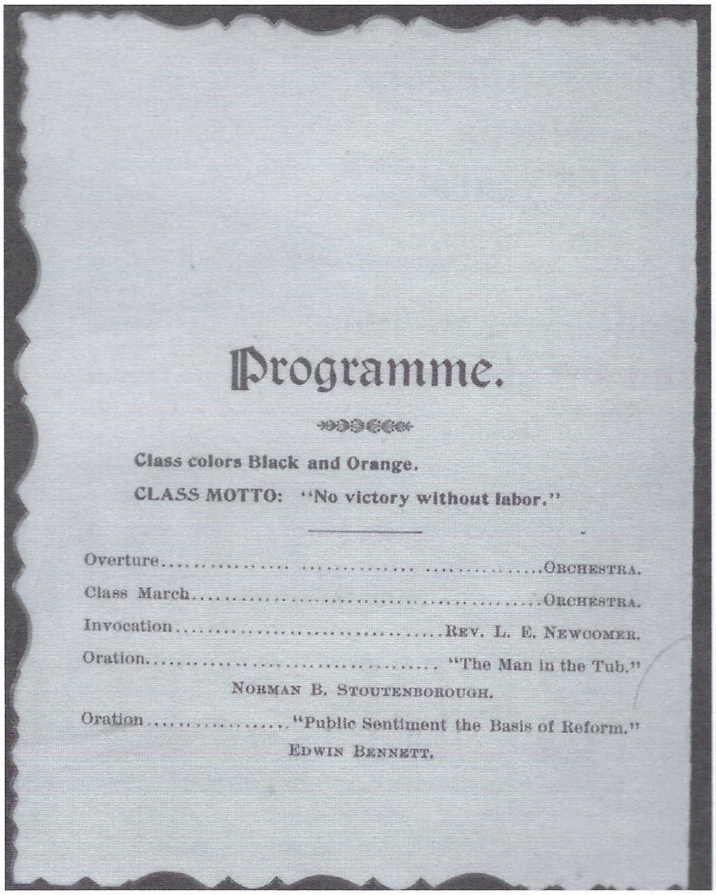
Teachers.	Board of Education.
WILLIAM FRY. Supt.	B. F. SHIPLEY, Pres.
W. E. MANN, High School.	H. G. KEPLER, Secy.
W. H. STONEBRAKER, 2d Grammar.	CHARLES HUFF.
AGNES L. COMPTON, 1st Grammar.	JOHN LONGSTREET.
MAY SWAN, 2d Intermediate.	E. J. CARTER.
DAISY POTTER, 1st Intermediate.	FRANK POTTER.
FRACIA HILL, 2d Primary.	FRANK STROUD.
KATE L. EDMUNDS, 1st Primary.	

Juniors of '99.

LEILAH M. NESBITT,	VIDA SHEWMAKER,
DAISY ANDERSON,	GAY WYSONG.
PERRY LIMING.	WALTER SWAN.



Vocal Solo............ ....Miss Lora Gault.
Oration...“Valley Forge.”
EMMA LEACH.
Music.......................... ....ORCHESTRA.
Debate: “Are Large Department Stores Injurious to Our Country.”
Yes.................................... ....{ ROLLA O. CROUCH. WILL C. MCGUIRE.
No...{ CHARLES J. SPOONER. ROY W. MAYALL.
Vocal Solo......................................MISS JESSIE BENNETT.
Oration...........................“Culture Through Social Service.”
LIZZIE CADE.
Oration...“Discontent.”
JOHN A. MALONE.
Music ....ORCHESTRA.
Oration. ....“War.”
LOUIS S. STERLING.
Presentation of Class..........................SUPT. WILLIAM FRY.
Presentation of Diplomas by President of Board....B. F. SHIPLEY.
Presentation of Diplomas of Honor.....................TEACHERS.
Music..ORCHESTRA.
Benediction...REV. J. C. HANNA.



Programme.

Class colors Black and Orange.
CLASS MOTTO: “No victory without labor.”

Overture................ ....ORCHESTRA.
Class March..ORCHESTRA.
Invocation.................................REV. L. E. NEWCOMER.
Oration.. “The Man in the Tub.”
NORMAN B. STOUTENBOROUGH.
Oration.................“Public Sentiment the Basis of Reform.”
EDWIN BENNETT.

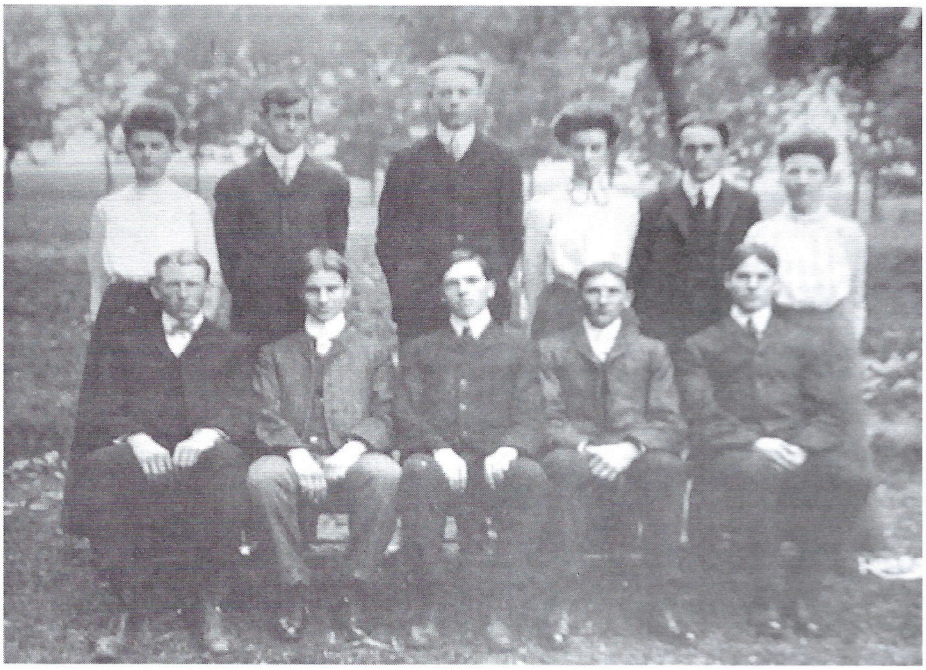
Linda *Brenda*

M & M CAFE

Homestyle Cooking
Home made Pies

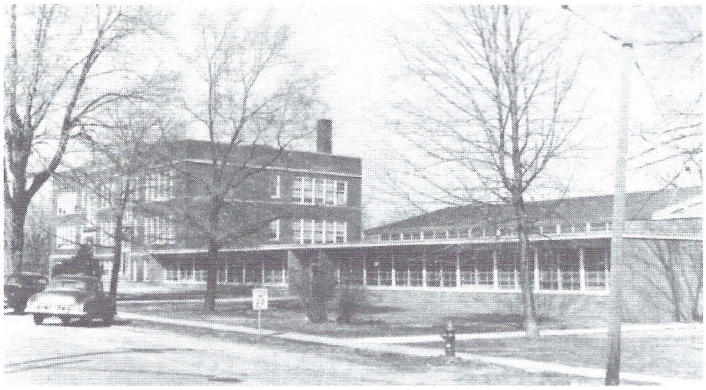
Hours : Monday-Friday 5:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 5:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Closed Sunday

Senior Citizens meals available Monday - Friday at 10:45 a.m.
Please call for reservations

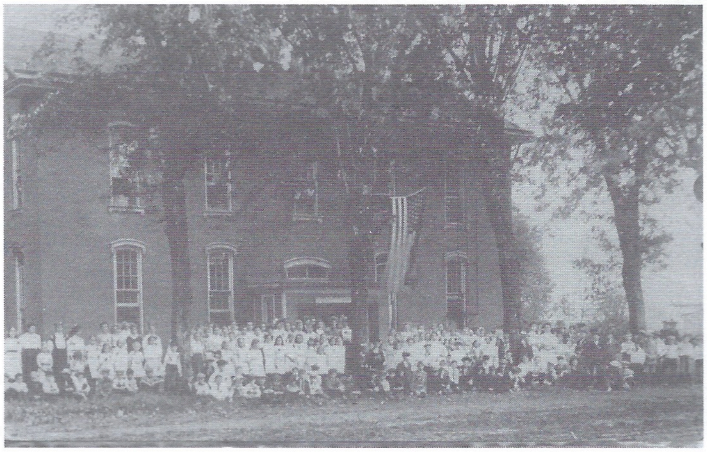


Maroa High School graduates of the class of 1904

Front, left to right: Emmett Leach, Franklin McLean, Floyd Miller, Earl Stoutenborough and John McLean. Back: Bessie Conover, Earl Stroud, Bruce Potter, Goldie Harrington, Fred Grady and Zella Haskill.



Grade School Addition



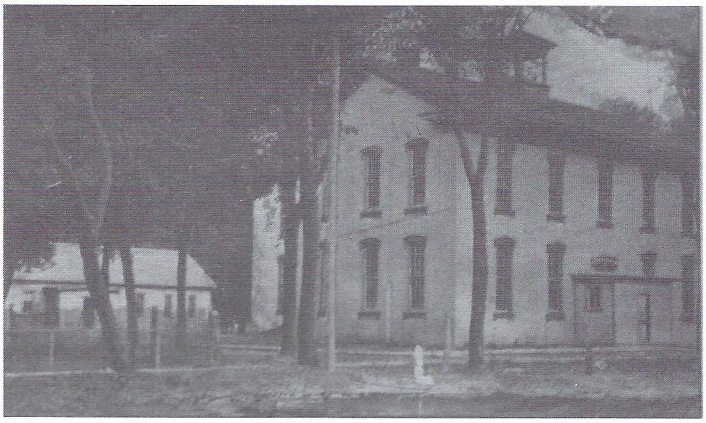
The school decked out for Flag Day in 1908. Courtesy of Larry Nix.

1915 Picture of the School.

1911 High School

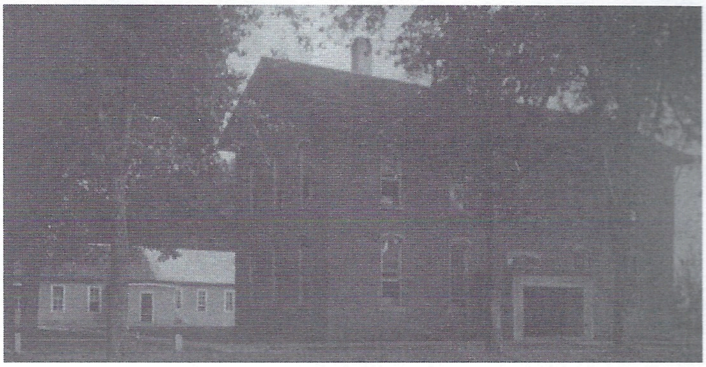
1910 Maroa Freshman Class

Maroa Schools
1915



The schoolhouse in 1913. Courtesy of Larry Nix.

The American School in 1920.



Maroa Public School picture. Photo courtesy of M&M Café

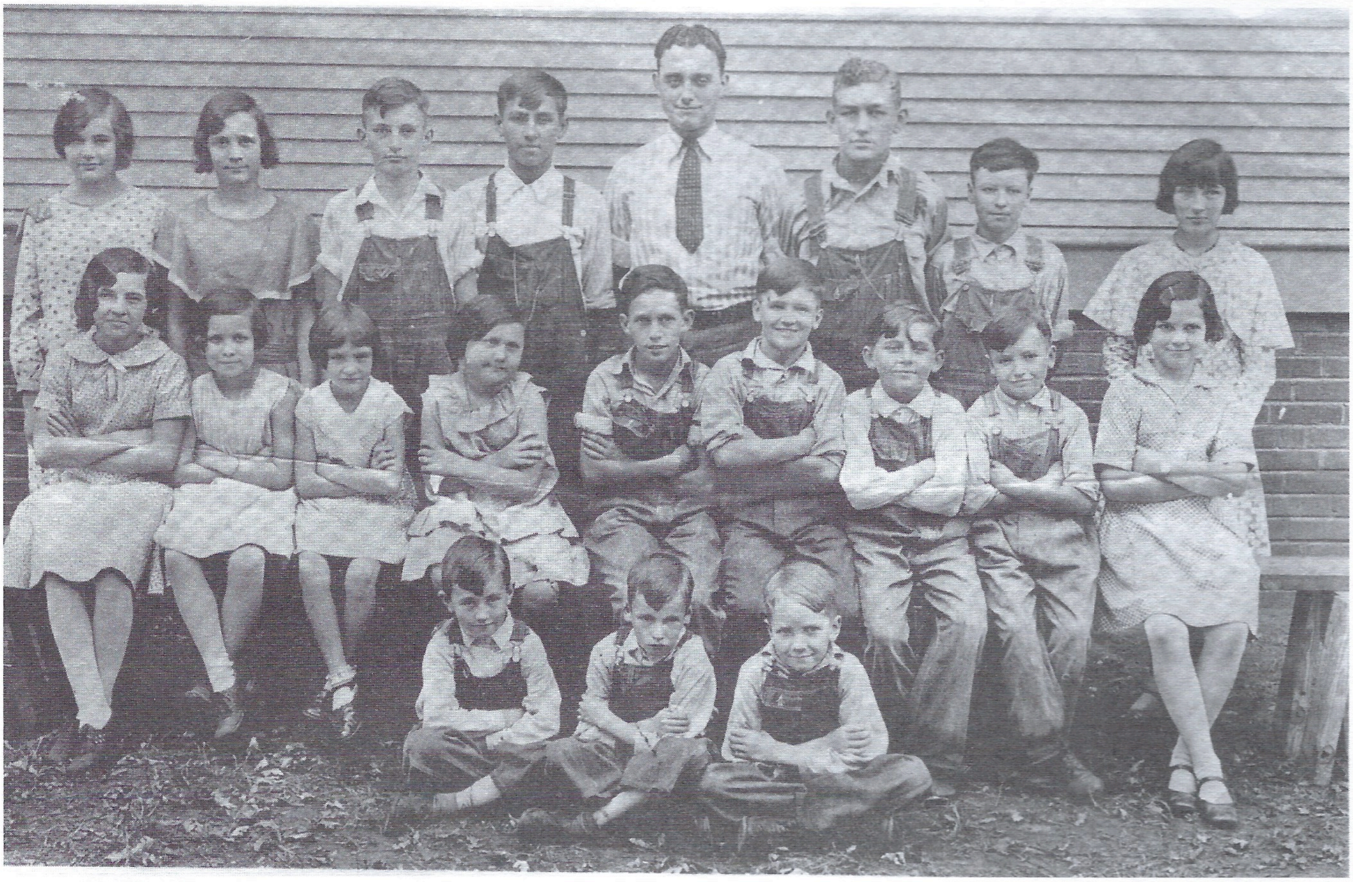
A picture taken on June 2, 1915 of the six members of the graduating class: Helen Buck, Minnie Tozer, Ruth Shields, Helen Buck, Jennie Vaughn.

Left: Same ladies get together for a 50-year High School reunion in 1965. (Left to Right) Minnie Tozer, Ruth Shields, Helen Buck, and Jennie Vaughn . Thanks to her Daughter, Suzanne (Conour) Miller for the photo.

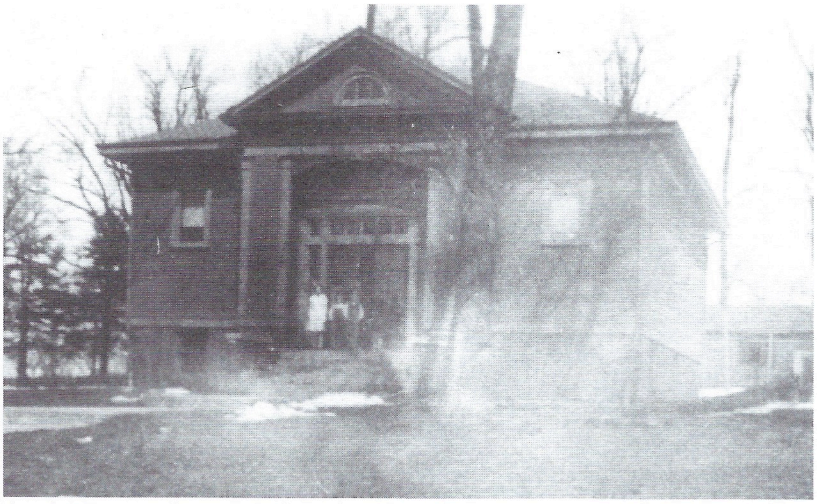
Recess at The American School in 1920.

Alvetta Harris, the only girl enrolled in Center Ridge school, stands by and watches while the other pupils play leap frog. Alvetta entered the school this semester to make it a coeducational school instead of a boys' school. The boys from left to right are Wendell Hastings, Warren Hastings, Donald Galloway, Mac Berry, Glenn Zakrzewski, Robert Redd, and Edmund Harris.

census info from 1870:
Maroa township population 1824,
Maroa City population 766
Foreign born in Maroa Township: 115,
Foreign born in Maroa city: 56.

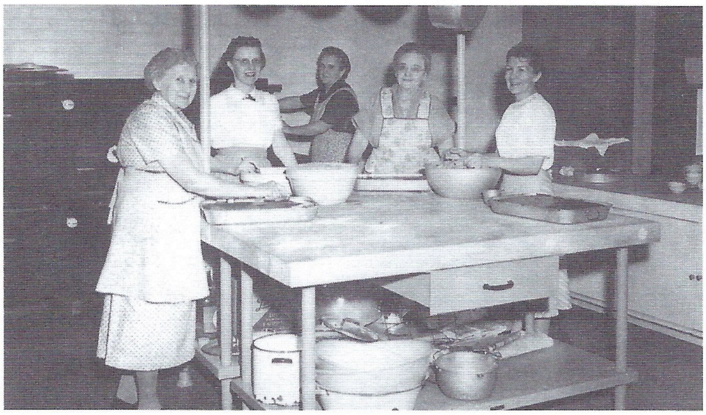


Picture from Prairie Post courtesy of Lyle Cisco.
Center Ridge School was located 3 miles west and 3 miles south of Maroa. This picture was taken about 1930.
Front row Left to right Warren Hastings, Wendel Hastings, Robert Reed.
Second row: Stella Halicki (Weingard), Dorothy J. Braden (Cisco), Wanda Reed (Agee), Alreva Fairchild, William Berry, Eugene Allen, Peter Halicki, Elwood Allen, Dorothea Lehman.
Standing, Ruth Mossbarger (Cheney), Pauline Braden (Hawkes), Ralph Hanes, Casimer Halicki, Teacher-Franklin Long, William Glosser, Dale Allen, Alice Hastings (Mayall).

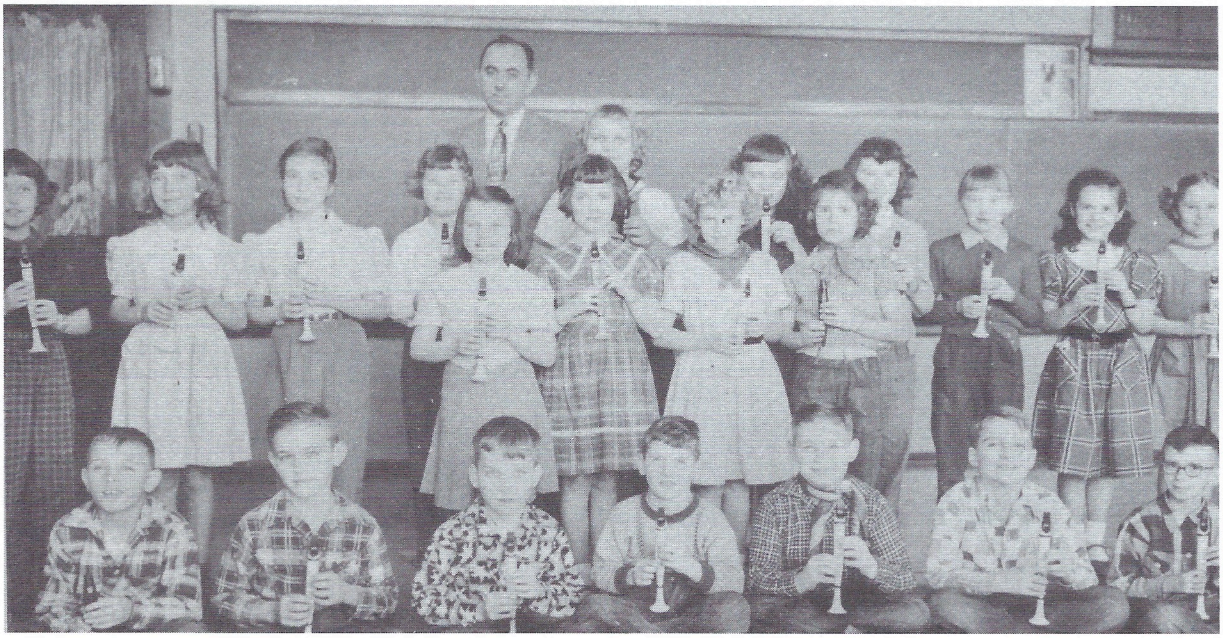


The Center Ridge School. It was 3 miles west and 4 miles south of Maroa. Back when there was a schoolhouse every 2 miles.
(Picture was degrading when it was digitized.)

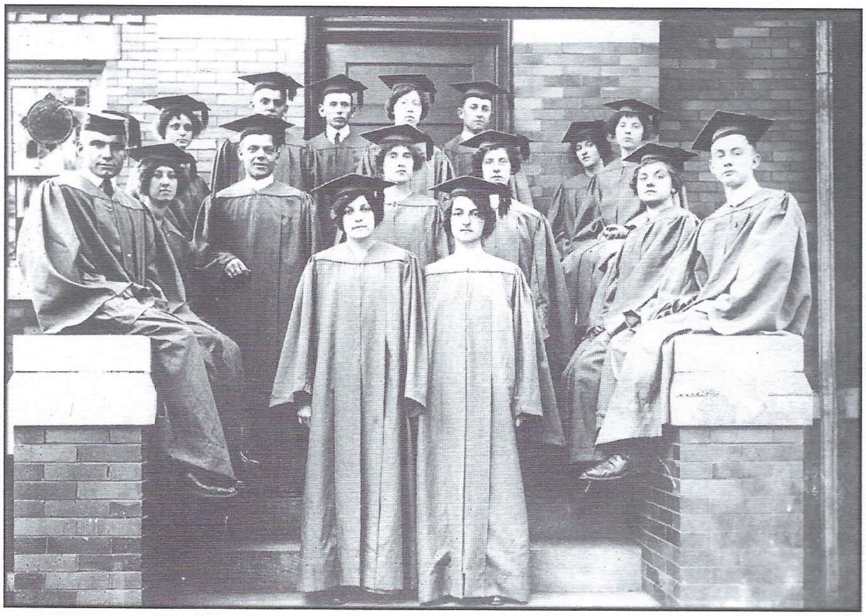
Public School in 1867.



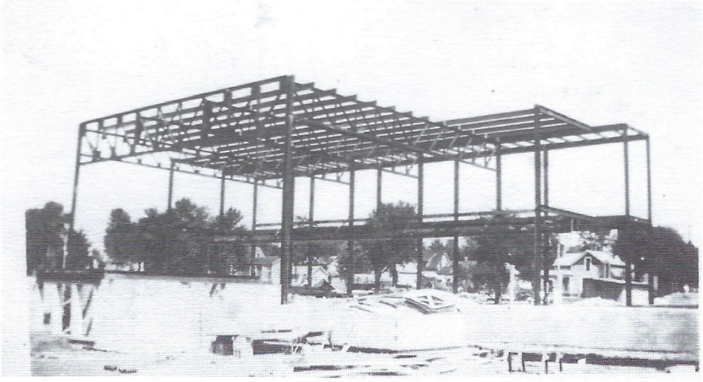
Grade School Cooks in 1954: (Left to right) Annie Pulliam, NormaleneMarsh Monts, Oma Reed, Laura Schroeder, Louise Archey. Courtesy of Larry Nix.



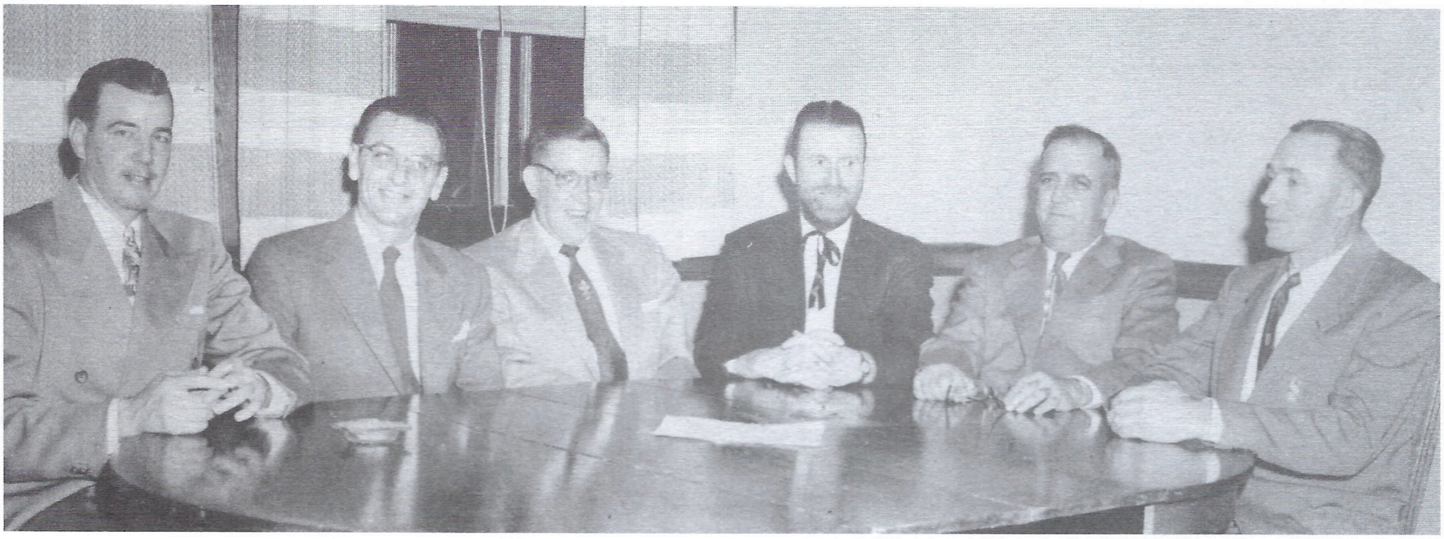
In 1954 the significance of an instrumental program in the public school was realized even in 1954. Here, the grade school Tonette Band demonstrates their posture.
Front row: Virgil Hanks, Gary Schroll, Charles Bliss, Danny Lynch, Skip Stein, Paul Groves, Jimmy Crouch.
Back row: Terry Stoutenborough, Linda Catlin, Melanie McGuire, Carolyn Birge, Kay Arnold, Marla Kay Atchison, Martha Hunt, Sharon Fore, Linda Sprague, Donna Moberly, Nancy Howard, Suzan Boyd, Dee Smith, Mary Bolton.



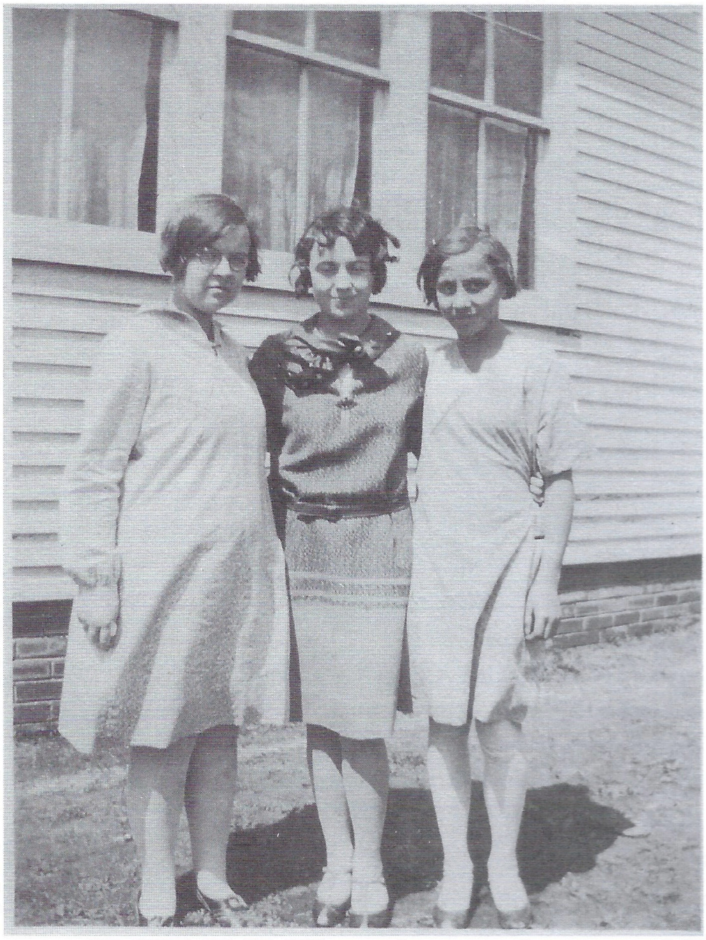
Senior class taken May 31, 1914 on the steps of the Maroa Christian Church
Starting from the left: Roy Prather, Verna Fort Shannon, Ruth Malone Moore, Otto Gray
Back Row: Bill Miller, Mark Brown, Ruth Adams Bunner, Anthony Stoutenborough
Right row, starting at the top: Ella Grady, Fleta Wikoff Haines, Lucille Shipley
Center: Helen Stoutenborough Huffman, Esther Shields Brown, Eva Martiney Bolen, Verl Stallings Parker



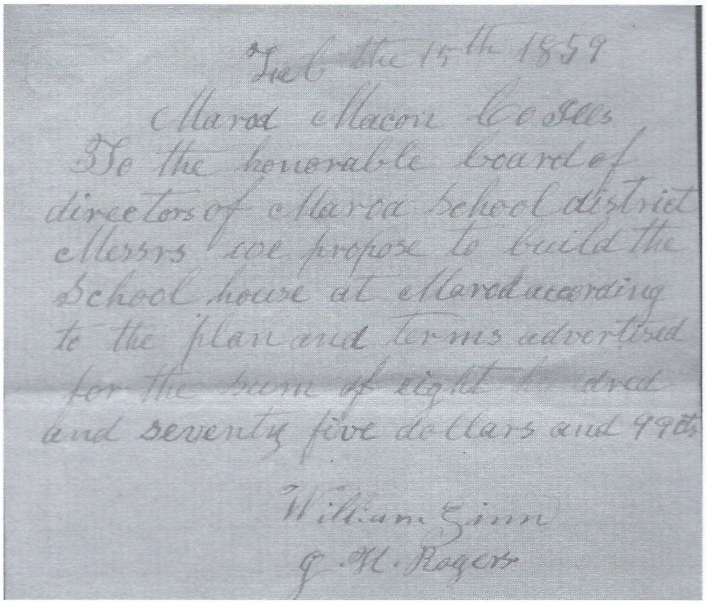
Steelwork for the High school as it was constructed in 1930. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.



The 1954 school board left to right: George R. Austin, Norman Ferrell, Robert Bolen, Secretary, William McGuire, Joseph Harmon, President, Newel Braden.



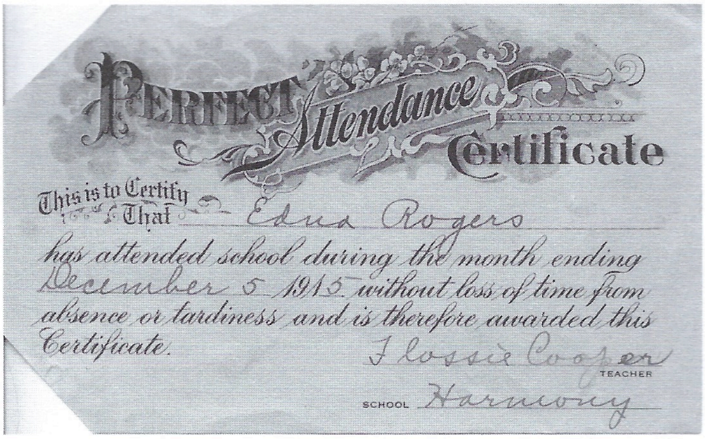
Prairie Chapel Country School was 3 miles east, 2 miles south of Maroa. L-r Helen Hutchinson(Groves), Carmen Rodgers (teacher), Carrie Agee pose for this picture which was probably an 8th grade graduation picture taken in 1928.



Feb the 15th 1859
Maroa Macon Co Ills
To the honorable board of
directors of Maroa School district
Messrs we propose to build the
School house at Maroa according
to the plan and terms advertised
for the sum of eight hundred
and seventy five dollars and 99cts

William Zinn
G. W. Rogers

Bid for first school in Maroa in 1859 The bid was for eight hundred and seventy five dollars and 99 cts. By William Zim & G. W Rogers. Courtesy of Larry Nix.



PERFECT Attendance Certificate

This is to Certify That Edna Rogers
has attended school during the month ending December 5 1915 without loss of time from absence or tardiness, and is therefore awarded this Certificate.

Flossie Cooper
TEACHER

SCHOOL Harmony

Edna Rogers perfect attendance certificate from Harmony School in 1915.

TIDBITS

Felix Dark was born in Piqua County, Ohio, in 1852. He came to Maroa at the age of twelve and spent the rest of his life in or near Maroa. In 1880 he married Emmazetta Smith and six children were born to them: Maude (Nesbitt), Cora, Rose, Grace, Charles and Oscar.

Snowden L. and Phebe Jane (Smith) Ferree were early residents of Maroa, having come from Ohio to Kenney and on to Maroa. Their children were Bertha (Braden), John L., Nettie (Potter), Francis Lee, Allie (Leach) and Harry V. There are fourteen grandchildren, and seventeen great-grandchildren. Mr. Ferree died in 1892 and his wife in 1939.

UPPER RIDGE SCHOOL

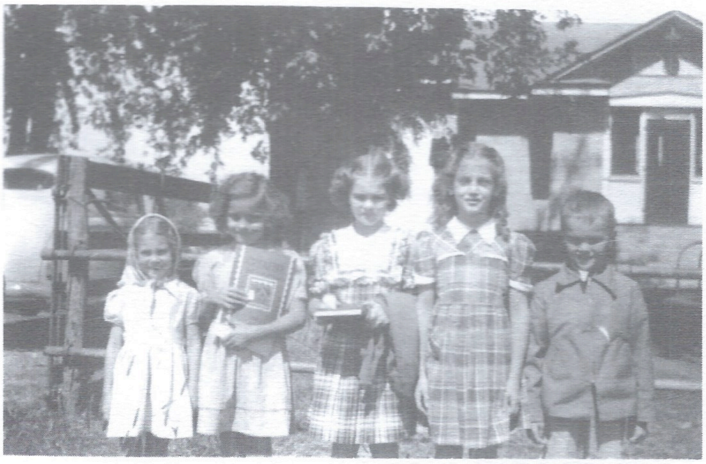
In 1856 the residents of the "ridge" built a school two and one-half miles west of the town of Maroa. The school, known as Upper Ridge, was named such because of the high ground in the far west and northwest part of Maroa Township, Macon County. This "ridge" extends into Texas Township, DeWitt County and through the foothills of Salt Creek. When the town of Maroa was incorporated in 1854 with the coming of the railroad, there was no school there until 1858. Any children from town who wished to attend school had to walk two and one-half miles west to the new Upper Ridge School. History tells us that in 1917 there was another school built and placed directly in front of the original school. The specifications for this school included that the old blackboards, desks and seats from the original school be moved to the new one and that all the wood used in the construction must be yellow pine or Washington fir. The Board of Directors at the time of this 1917 building were F. B. Stoutenborough, President of Trustees; J. E. Moore, Clerk ; J. B. Cornwell. The Architect was A. Clausen, Millikin Building, Decatur.

With the State Unit Rule, Upper Ridge has the distinction of being the last school in Maroa Township to be closed now that all children had to attend "town"schools.

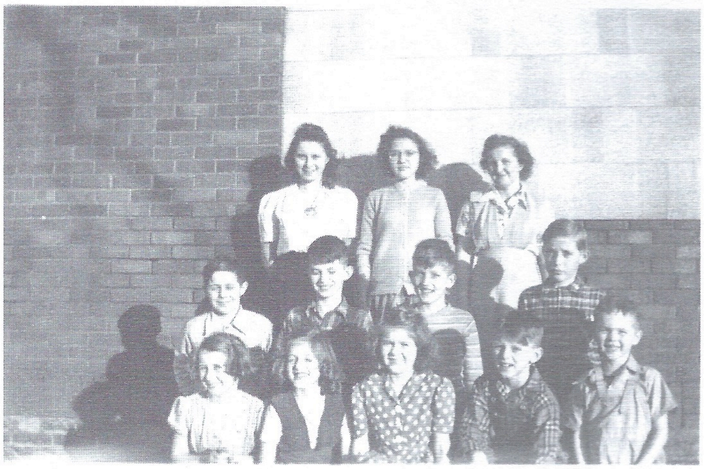
When the school was closed, the Maroa Unit District sold the schoolhouse and grounds at public auction in 1959 to John Robertson and it was made into a private home. Lynette and Tim White now reside there. In their remodeling they discovered a writing near the roof telling them the building was built in 1917.

From the "Record of Teachers" in the Office of the Director of Regional Education, the following are listed as teachers of Upper Ridge School beginning in 1896. Mary Knotts, Sue Danley, Emma Bowlby, Bessie Benford, Bernice Wikoff, Frances Leiter, Frances Russell, Lina Underwood, Wilma Goodwin, Vivian Haggard, Irene Chandler, Lucille Eagler, Beatrice Brelsfoard, Ruth Armstrong, Dorothy Shaw, Edna Ashenfelter, Mary Milnes, Lelia Davenport, Lulu Dobson, Olive Simms, Ernestine Howell, Hazel Shyer, Bessie Landrum, Howell, Joan Marsh, Doris Zelez.

The memories of the merry-go-round and hobby horse in the front yard and all the ballgames played by the students at recess are still vivid. Of course there were two outhouses at the back fence – one for the boys and one for the girls. In the 40's, the teacher was expected to be at the school early enough to start the fire in the furnace and do any other janitorial work necessary. In those days, before school began in the fall, we went to Decatur to buy our books new at the book store. Our library was a cupboard at the front of the school. Most of the year we would walk to school or ride our bicycle. We took our lunch in plain black or blue lunch boxes with a thermos bottle and sandwichs wrapped in the wax coated bread wrappers. In the late 40's hot lunches were brought from the Maroa school. In a school with under twenty students, the teacher taught all eight grades for sometime until consolidation of the schools began and the seventh and eighth graders attended in Maroa. There was a closeness among the students and every month there would be a PTA meeting when all the families would come together. We would have plays and sayings and sang songs for our programs. And we usually had a Halloween party and the entire family would come. Christmas time, Santa would come and we would get an orange and apple and perhaps some candy. Those were the "good old days"! Really!



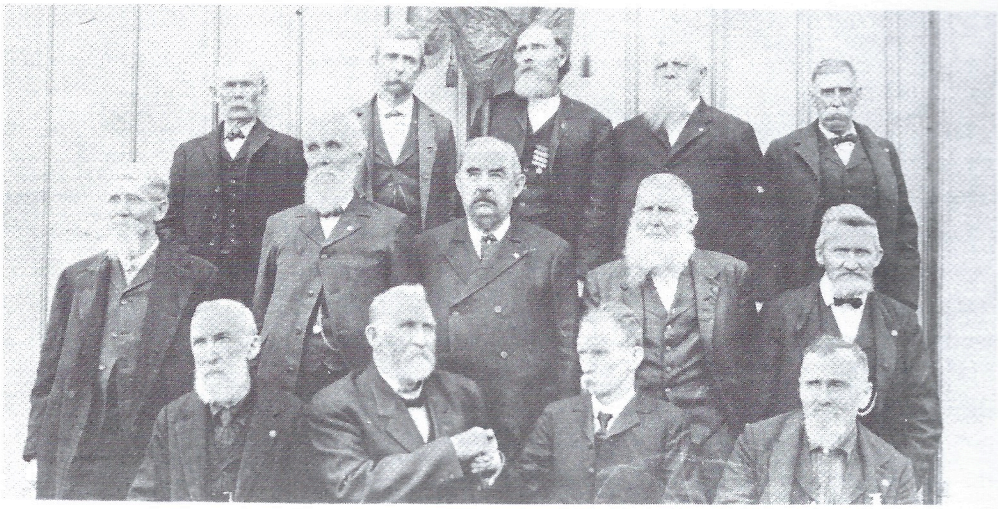
Upper Ridge school in the 1940's. L-R: Della James, Ann Karban, Ruth Ann Braden , Rosemary Reeser, Bob Braden.
The school is in the background upper right of the picture.

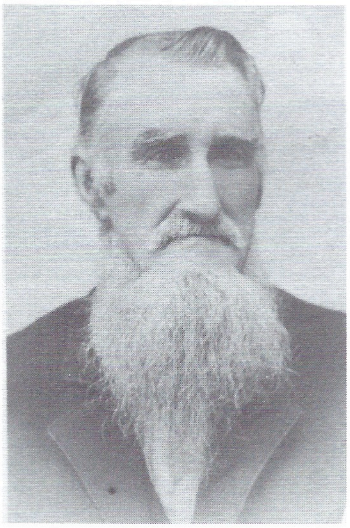


Upper Ridge school class
L-R Back row: Bernadine Brown, Patty Smith, Teacher, Ernestine Howell
Middle row: Elwood brown, unknown, Steve Reeser, Dean Seeley,
Front row: Darlene Brown, Rosemary Reeser, Ruth Ann Braden, Don Westerman, Bob Braden.

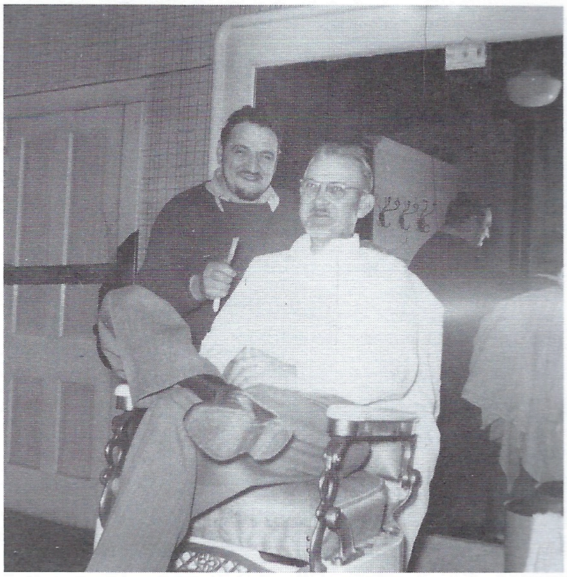
Picture of class about 1940's at Upper Ridge school

This is the same picture as GARLinglePost.tif, but seems to be a better picture. In case they were note named in previous notes: Back row l-r: F.K. Bohrer, Governor Conover, Caleb Westbrook, E.G. Covault, J. M. Walker. Middle row: W.W. Nesbitt, Capt. T.H. Barr, T.N Leavitt, J. J. Leach, A.W. Kinnamon. Front row: Capt. C.F. Emery, H.M. Morris, John Kempshall (confederate), J.M. Currie.

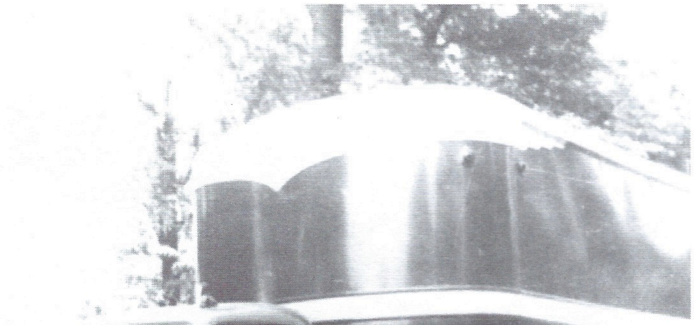




Lorenzo D. Hobbs, an early settler west of Maroa, was born in Maine. He was a brother-in-law of C. F. Emery, their wives being sisters. Mr. and Mrs. Hobbs moved to Maroa when he retired from farming.



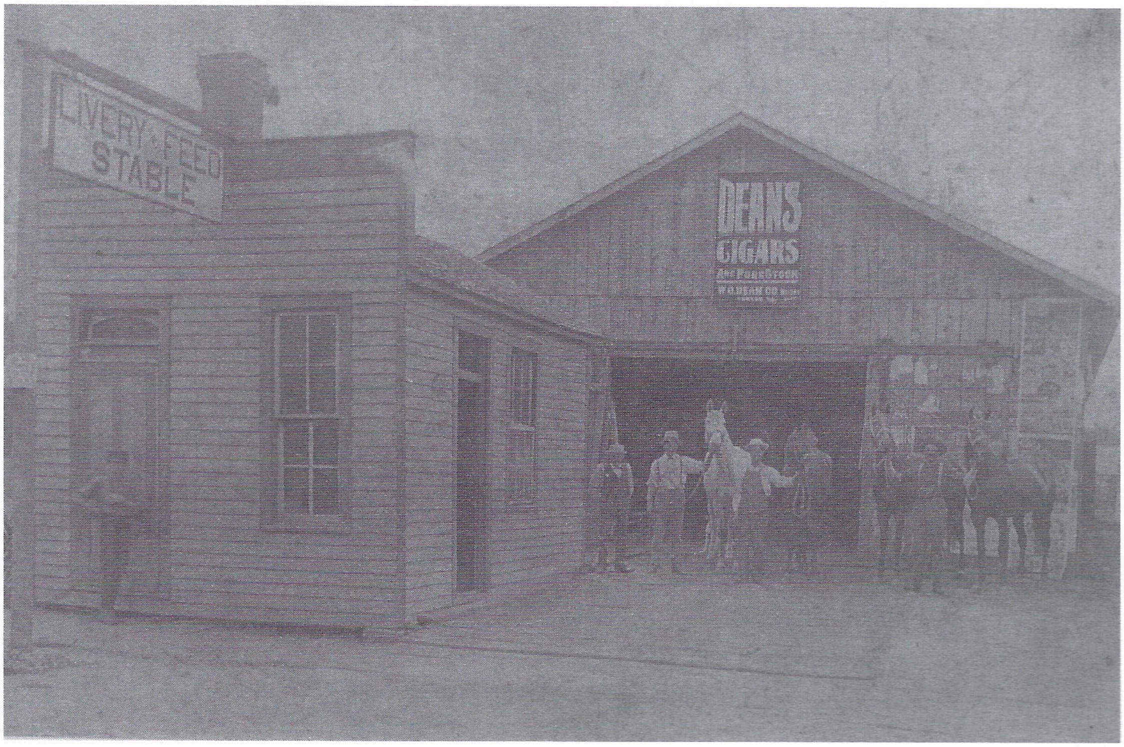
1954 Butch Shuey



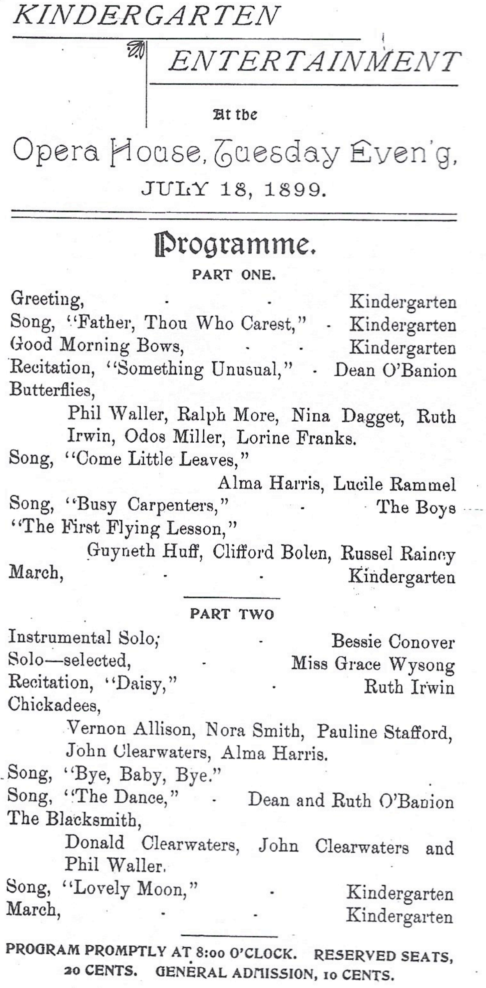
L.D. ISAAC
GROCERY CO.
MAROA ILL.
L.D. ISAAC
GROCERY CO.
MAROA ILL.

Robert Barnett was a driver for Coley Isaac. The trucking permit was in the wife's name, Lula Della (the LD) Bob started driving for them at 16 and drove for them for 44 years.

Henry Funk's Barber Shop (Henry Funk, left and R. D. Bolen, Sr., right)



Livery Stable in Maroa. Cir 1900 photo courtesy of M&M Café at 119 West Main



KINDERGARTEN
ENTERTAINMENT

At the

Opera House, Tuesday Even'g,
JULY 18, 1899.

Programme.

PART ONE.

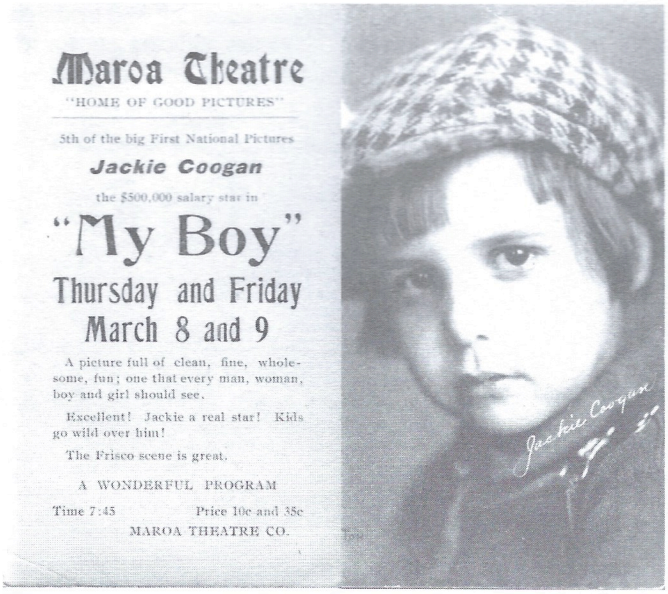
Greeting, - - Kindergarten
Song, "Father, Thou Who Carest," - Kindergarten
Good Morning Bows, - - Kindergarten
Recitation, "Something Unusual," - Dean O'Banion
Butterflies,
  Phil Waller, Ralph More, Nina Dagget, Ruth Irwin, Odos Miller, Lorine Franks.
Song, "Come Little Leaves,"
  Alma Harris, Lucile Rammel
Song, "Busy Carpenters," - The Boys
"The First Flying Lesson,"
  Guyneth Huff, Clifford Bolen, Russel Rainey
March, - - Kindergarten

PART TWO

Instrumental Solo, - Bessie Conover
Solo—selected, - Miss Grace Wysong
Recitation, "Daisy," - Ruth Irwin
Chickadees,
  Vernon Allison, Nora Smith, Pauline Stafford, John Clearwaters, Alma Harris.
Song, "Bye, Baby, Bye."
Song, "The Dance," - Dean and Ruth O'Banion
The Blacksmith,
  Donald Clearwaters, John Clearwaters and Phil Waller.
Song, "Lovely Moon," - Kindergarten
March, - - Kindergarten

PROGRAM PROMPTLY AT 8:00 O'CLOCK. RESERVED SEATS, 20 CENTS. GENERAL ADMISSION, 10 CENTS.

This 1899 program at the Maroa Opera House was on Tuesday evening, and the Kindergartner's were the main performers.


Jackie Coogan

Maroa Theatre
"HOME OF GOOD PICTURES"

5th of the big First National Pictures
Jackie Coogan
the $500,000 salary star in

"My Boy"

Thursday and Friday
March 8 and 9

A picture full of clean, fine, wholesome, fun; one that every man, woman, boy and girl should see.

Excellent! Jackie a real star! Kids go wild over him!

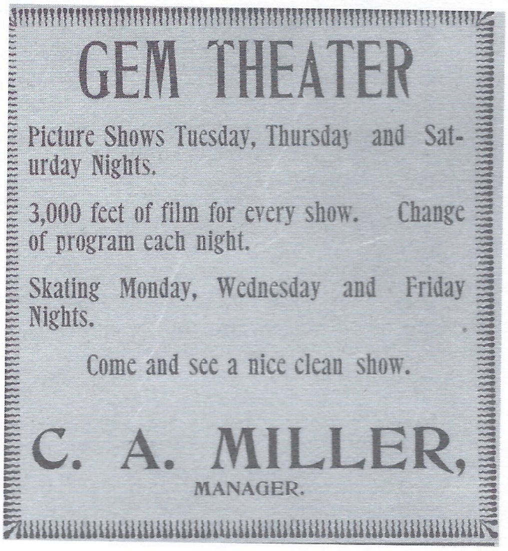
The Frisco scene is great.

A WONDERFUL PROGRAM

Time 7:45 Price 10c and 35c
MAROA THEATRE CO.

Unsure what the year is for this wonderful production.

The picture of the "$500,000 Salary Star that kids will go wild over him". It was the other side of that ticket. Possible 1923, 1917, 1906. Probably no earlier. Look up info on Jackie Coogan child star.



GEM THEATER

Picture Shows Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday Nights.

3,000 feet of film for every show. Change of program each night.

Skating Monday, Wednesday and Friday Nights.

Come and see a nice clean show.

C. A. MILLER,
MANAGER.

Gem Theatre advertisement in the 1910 Maroa Times News year end edition. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.

From the 1914 Oracle
Junior-Senior Reception

On the evening of April 18th, 1913, the Junior class gave the annual reception and banquet to the Seniors. It was held at the home of one of the Juniors, Ella Grady.

At 6 o'clock all the members of the two classes and the High School faculty were invited to the dining room, which had been decorated in pink and white, the Junior colors, to partake of the delicious four-course dinner which had been prepared by some of the mothers and a cateress from Clinton. The pink and white color-scheme was carried out in the dinner.

Toasts were given between courses.

THE MENU

First Course Relishes and Wafers

Second Course

Turkey, Potatoes, Gravy, Dressing, Escalloped Oysters, Peas, Butter, Rolls, Deviled Eggs, Coffee, Gooseberry Jam

Third Course

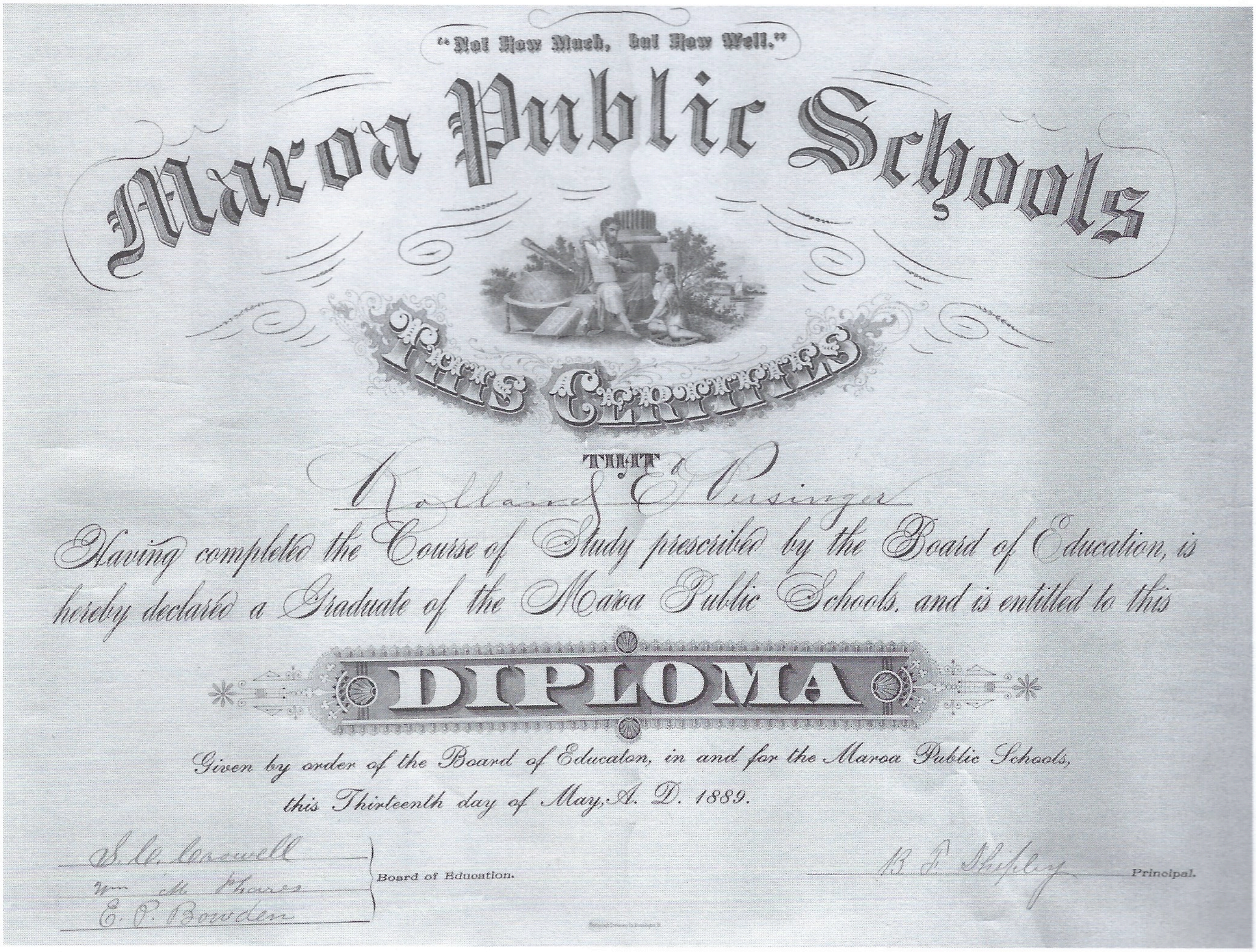
Salad Saratoga Flakes Radishes

Fourth Course

Ice Cream Angel Food Cake Mints Almonds

Having done ample justice to the dinner, the crowd adjourned to the parlor, which had been decorated in the Senior colors of red and green, where a short program was rendered consisting of musical selections and readings. Piano music was furnished by Mrs. Nellie Davis Redmon. The remainder of the evening was spent in playing games and contests, for which prizes were offered.

All departed at a late hour agreed that this social function was a great success.



"Not How Much, but How Well."

Maroa Public Schools

This Certifies

That

Rolland E Persinger

Having completed the Course of Study prescribed by the Board of Education, is hereby declared a Graduate of the Maroa Public Schools, and is entitled to this

DIPLOMA

Given by order of the Board of Educaton, in and for the Maroa Public Schools, this Thirteenth day of May, A. D. 1889.

S. C. Crowell
Wm M Phares
E. P. Bowden
Board of Education.

B. F. Shipley Principal.

Rolland E Persinger's Diploma from the Maroa Public School from 1889.

MAROA-FORSYTH SCHOOLS

Many changes have taken place in the schools of the unit in the last 50 years. In 1960 an addition was made to the high school. The gymnasium was enlarged and several classrooms were added at this time. The west end of the gymnasium was propped up with scaffolding which collapsed and several workers were severely injured. In this addition and remodeling, the gymnasium was changed from north to south to running from east to west, and many bleachers were added.

In January or February of 1973, the students moved into the new Junior High School addition, which was connected, to the high school by an enclosed corridor. The two schools shared some of the rooms. At the time of the Junior High addition, land was purchased south of the existing high school for the Junior High addition and to make a new football field and track. Many improvements have been made at the football field: new bleachers, a building for storage of equipment, space for concessions at the games, rest rooms for both men and women, and improvement of the field itself are just a few.

Kindergarten was started in the 1966-67 school year. The students attended for just a half-day. In 1982-83 school year kindergarten started as an all day class. One group of children attended on Monday and Wednesday. A second group attended on Tuesday and Thursday. The two groups alternated attending on Fridays. In the 1986-87 school year kindergarten was held all day for all the students.

In 2001 the Maroa-Forsyth Board of Education called for a special election to seek approval to build and equip a new high school building, purchase the site, build and equip an addition to the junior high and improve both sites and pay for the costs by issuing bonds for $8,500,000. A new high school would eliminate the oldest building in the district, the Maroa grade school.

The Board of Education purchased 19.5 acres of land immediately west of the existing junior high/high school property. Ground breaking for the new high school was on March 11,2002. The move into the new building was made during the weekend of January 17, unpacking on January 19, and the first classes in the new high school were held on January 20, 2004. A dedication and open house was held on March 7, 2004.

The new high school has 98,000 square feet, and the school district now has 203,792 square feet of space. The cost of the new high school was approximately $13,000,000. The State provided approximately $4,600,000 and the local unit approximately $8,500,000.

In the summer of 2000 an elevator was installed in the High School and in the Junior High School to make them handicapped accessible, In 2002 the open court in the junior high building was enclosed which added 1,800 square foot of space.

In the 1995-96 school year Forsyth had grades Kindergarten, first, second, and third and fourth for all students in the Maroa-Forsyth Unit. Maroa had Kindergarten, first, second, and all students of the Unit in grades five through twelve.

In the fall of 2004 all students in the unit in grades Kindergarten through grade three will attend Maroa-Forsyth Grade School in

AROA
GRADE
SCHOO

2004 Maroa Grade School

Forsyth. Pre-kindergarten and grades four and five will attend the Intermediate School (in the old Junior High building). Grades six, seven, and eight will attend the Middle School (in the old High School building) in Maroa.

Enrollment of the Unit in the 2003-04 year is:

Maroa Grade school	234	Forsyth Grade	298
Junior High	187	Senior High	310
PreK.	20		

The following people have served as superintendents of the school unit Mr. Dayton Keyes, Mr. John Kitowski, Mr. Milo Watson, Mr. Robert Paxson, Mr. Richard Irvin, and Mr. Stephen Stenger who came in 1986 and is the present superintendent

Present School Board members are: Jim Peck, President, Cyndi Harris, Teresa Larson, Rick Patterson, Sue Kowa, Andrea Shaffer, and Randy Hatton.

Facility Inventory Report

Maroa-Forsyth Grade School

1928 Original Building	5,371 square feet
1953 Addition	5,749 square feet
1954 Addition	887 square feet
1958 Addition	5,826 square feet
1971 Addition	7,222 square feet
1996 Addition	4,900 square feet
1999 Addition	2,016 square feet
2000 Addition	2,450 square feet
Total for Maroa and Forsyth Grade Schools:	34,437 total square feet

Maroa-Forsyth Intermediate School

1972 Original Building	30,156 square feet
2002 Addition	1,800 square feet (enclosed middle courtyard)
Total for Intermediate School:	31,956 square feet

Maroa-Forsyth Middle School (Old High School)

1930 Original Building	16,640 square feet
1953 Addition	7,659 square feet (Agriculture wing to North)
1960 Addition	15,100 square feet (Gymnasium)
Total :	39,399 total square feet

Maroa-Forsyth High School

2004 Original Building	98,000 square feet
District	203,792 square feet

Classrooms in 2004

Grade	20	Intermediate	12
Middle	18	High	26
Total classrooms: 76			

MAROA-FORSYTH SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION

The Foundation was established in 1996 as a not-for-profit corporation governed by the laws of the State of Illinois. Its purpose is to enrich the lives of Maroa-Forsyth students through enhanced educational opportunities. Money received from endowment funds and gifts will make a difference between basic education and excellent education.

The decisions of the Foundation are made by the Foundation Board of Directors. Both the school district and the Board of Education are represented on the Foundation's Board.

The original members of the Foundation Board were: Tom Tapp, incorporator, Betty Coen, Larry Thicksten, Brenda Turner, Gary Morgan, Dale Aupperle, Kit Paulin, John Cook, Board of Education member, and Steve Stenger, Superintendent.

Present members of the Foundation Board are: Betty Coen, Orville Dash, Susan Grider, Lisa Lievense, Jim Livasy, Tim Patton, Mary Scott, Andrea Shatter, Larry Thicksten, and Steve Stenger, Superintendent.

The new Maroa -Forsyth High School was built during 2003 and the first students entered the halls in the spring semester of 2004 and held it's first graduation for the class of 2004 for 68 students. The total building cost was approximately $13,211,960 with $8,587,774 from the local taxes and $4,624,186 million coming from the State of Illinois as part of a program called Illinois First, where the state helped to pay for new buildings for school districts if the building was approved by the school district. The School district passed the voting referendum to build the school during the April 3, 2001 election, and ground was broke on March 11, 2002 for the structure.

Melvin Nicol Day, January 21, 1973

Melvin J. Nicol

In January of 1973, a 35-year veteran of the Maroa-Forsyth High School Faculty retired.

Melvin Nicol was a much respected agriculture teacher in Illinois for over 40 years. His influence on the farming community and his former students is still evident in 2004. "Nic" as he was called by his students, (needless to say, not to his face), was instrumental in building the award-winning FFA Chapter at Maroa-Forsyth High School. Over the 35 years he was teaching here, this group produced many State Farmers, American Farmers, FFA State Officers, and Sectional Star Farmers. He was also the recipient of the highest honorary degree bestowed on an adult by the National FFA, Honorary American Farmer. Mr. Nicol was highly respected in the educational community and former students recall that he ALWAYS had a student teacher and sometimes even two during one semester.

Mr. Nicol also was a community minded individual who served as a Sunday School teacher for many years at the Maroa United Methodist Church and as a 4-H leader for the Maroa Livestock 4-H Group (which is still active). On January 21, 1973, Maroa declared an official Melvin Nicol Day with over 700 persons attending his open house.

In 2004, he passed away at over 90 years of age in Rock Island, Illinois. His son, Dr. Sheldon Nicol, resides in Joliet.

Sinkosky Builders, Inc.
Tim Sinkosky
500 North Oak Street
Maroa, IL 61756
217-794-5039 or 217-620-0917

Lots and /or Custom Built Housed For Sale
Sinkosky Sub-Division
Located
North East Corner of Maroa, IL

RURAL MAROA SCHOOLS

The pioneers of Macon County early recognized the importance of schools,

Many of them had come from educational environments, others had not, but with few exceptions all wanted these advantages for their children. There was no public school system in Illinois, and they were not going to wait until one was perfected. As a result there were schools in the county ever since its beginning, in fact, before the county was laid out. Naturally the first ones were crude and poor, but so was every thing else at the time.

The early school acts of the state (about 1828) provided that common schools should be established, free and open to every class of white citizens between the ages of five and twenty-one, and persons over twenty-one might be admitted on such terms as the Trustees should provide.

Districts of not fewer than fifteen families were to be formed by the county courts, upon petition of a majority of the voters thereof} officers to be elected, sworn in, and their duties were prescribed in detail. The legal voters were empowered at the annual meeting to levy a tax in money or produce at its cash value, not exceeding one half of one percent, subject to a maximum limitation of 10 dollars to any one person.

The donation by Congress of the sixteenth section of every congressional township, or, if sold, lands equivalent thereto, as near as might be, for the use of the inhabitants of such townships for school purposes, amounted to over 998,000 acres, in the state which if it had been properly managed and cultivated, would have given the people such ample funds as would have saved them forever from local taxation.

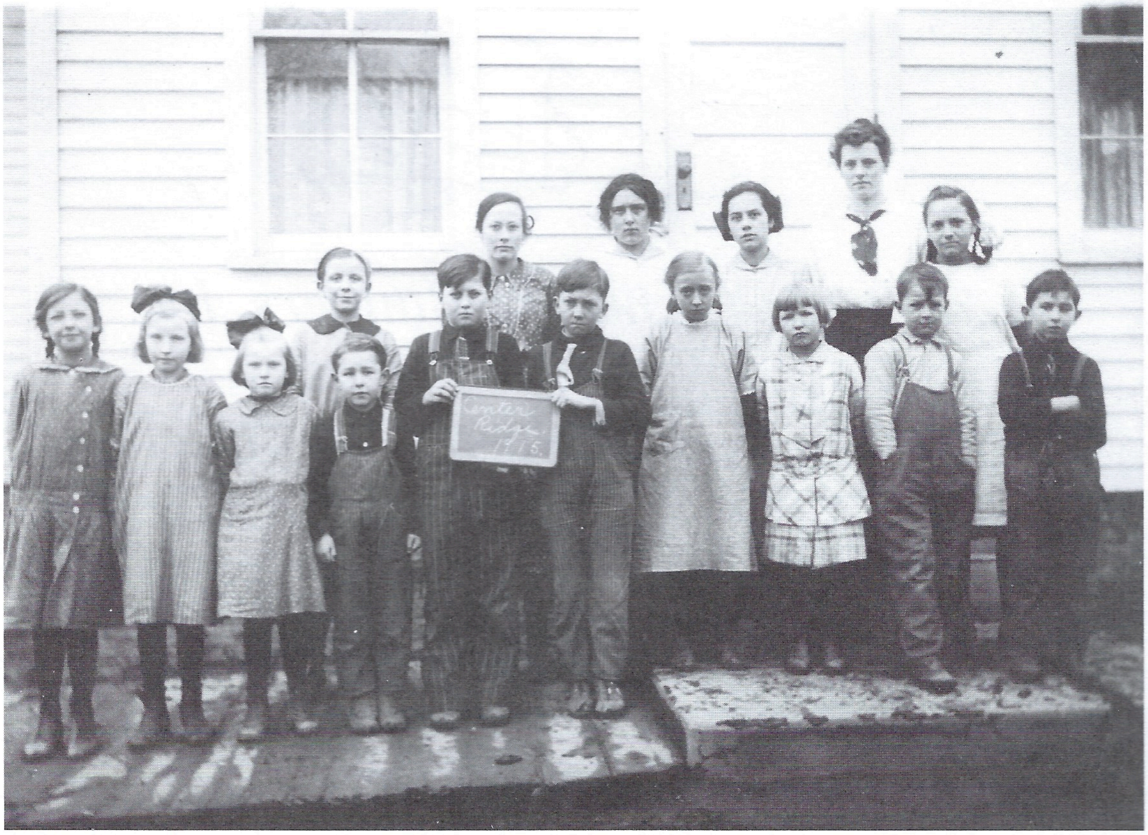
These townships sold off their sections of land, one by one. It is worthy of note that out of the entire Louisiana Purchase, in only one township in one county in the state of Illinois, did the settlers exercise the wisdom necessary to keep that section of land given them. This was, of course, Austin township in Macon County, Illinois, where the "School Section" today bears a fine modern school. There is just one other similar section in the State and it is located in the business district of Chicago.

The first building erected for a school was the Ridge, west of Maroa. It was built in 1856 on land purchased by the district from 2 estates, half on each side. The first school had been one mile north of Maroa, but the school, after one year had been moved to the site west of Maroa.

Other schools in Maroa township were Parker School, 2 miles south and one mile west of Maroa, (It too was purchased by the district), and both buildings are now converted into homes. Pleasant View, two miles south and 3 miles west of Maroa was donated by Samuel Braden for the life of the school. The building was purchased for a home, and moved away and the land reverted to the original owner.

Harmony, two miles south and one mile east was purchased by the district and is also a home.

The remaining schools, Pleasant Valley, south of Maroa, on route 51, Fair Play east of Emery, and American School 3 miles east of Maroa have all been closed. In 1946 and 1947 about 10 grade schools in Maroa township and the south part of Dewitt County were consolidated with the Maroa Grade School and were known


Center Ridge 1915.

Center Ridge School class of 1915.

as the Maroa Community Consolidated School. Two buses were purchased during the summer and the children were brought to town to school.

The next spring, a new law changed the system again and the grade and high school districts were consolidated under one Board of Education forming the Community Unit, as it now stands.

May, 1976
By Virgil L. Wikoff
& Grace Cornwell Wikoff (both now deaceased)

Mr. Virgil Wikoff was a member of the History Panel for the Maroa Bicentennial Commission. The original panel discussion was held in March, 1976, The following pages are notes of his part of the discussion which are being placed, along with a tape recording of his report, in the Maroa Township Library. Mr. Wikoff was a retired farmer and lifelong resident of the Maroa area.
((Rural Maroa Schools)
Reprinted with permission of the Maroa Public Library. Audio CD and tape is available at the Library.

1942 Harmony School

1943 Harmony School

SPORTS

In the early days of Maroa, its citizens, as today, were very much interested in sports. Not too much is known of its activities before 1900.

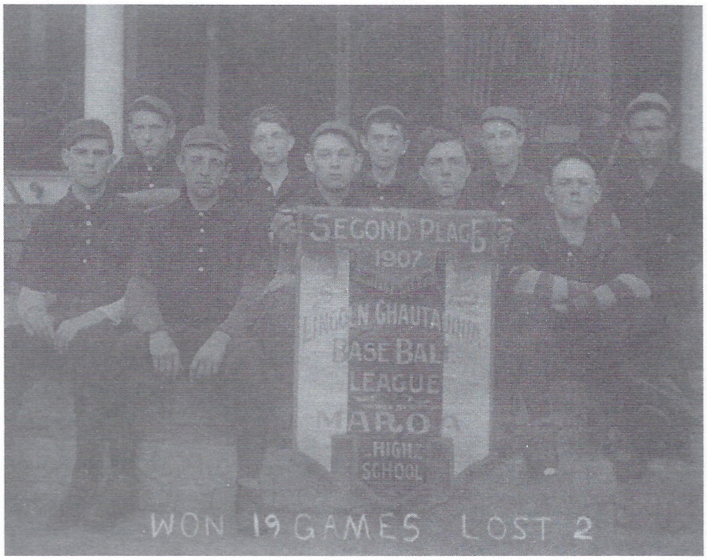
According to history, one of its earliest Baseball teams was a very good one and existed just before the turn of the century. It was made up of the following players: Andy Barndt, 1b; Eph Emminger, 2b; Dave Frank, ss; Bob Leach, 3b; Buck Ford and Rolla Persinger, p; Chas. Jones, Frank Ford and Ollie Conn in the outfield, and a few others. Most of their games were played on a diamond in the northwest part of the city, on the present Vantries property. Later a ball diamond and a race track were made on a tract of land just south of our present High School, and a few games were played there. Most all of the games were played against neighboring cities because means of transportation were limited in those days.

Clinton and Maroa were great rivals on the ball diamond and special trains were sometimes run between the two cities and a band was always included on those special occasions.

About that same time a great Football team represented Maroa on the gridiron. It was made up of local boys and the oldtimers can recall that the team was never scored upon one year. However, they were held to a scoreless tie one Thanksgiving day at Blue Mound by a team made up largely of Northwestern University players.

Horse racing was another sport that was engaged in quite a bit in the early days. About 1904 a track was built just south of town and that was used for several years.

Football Team 1898
Back Row-Raymond Bowden, John Malone, Bert Covalt, Ed Heiher, Clarence Leach, Holland Persinger, Cloris Vernon, Tom Doran. Front Row-Charles Stein, Chart Phares, Chick Glosser, George Elliott, Levi Creekmur. Under the management of Tom Doran and coached by Ed Heiher, this team was tied once but never beaten during its four years of playing.



The 1907 Maroa High School baseball team was the beginning of a small dynasty in the Lincoln Chautauqua league. Back Row - John W. Hobbs, Ross Bolen, Charles Conover, Bert Smith, Hugh Weilepp, manager. Front Row - Ron Bennett, Phil Redmon, George Waller, Floyd Brake, Harry Weilepp.

Baseball team in Maroa on a 1904

High School sports were very meager for many years on account of the small numbers in school. Baseball was the first sport that came to the front. The years 1907 and 1908 had two outstanding teams, made up of such players as Phil and Travis Redmon, Roy Bennett, Carl and Weston Hobbs, James Parker, Ross Bolen, Wray Cramer, Chas. Conover, George Waller, Floyd Brake, Harry Weilepp and Bert Smith with Hugh Weilepp as manager.

Later on Football and Basketball became quite active and some outstanding teams were developed that were the pride of the community.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
FROM

NEWS/TALK 1340

WSOY

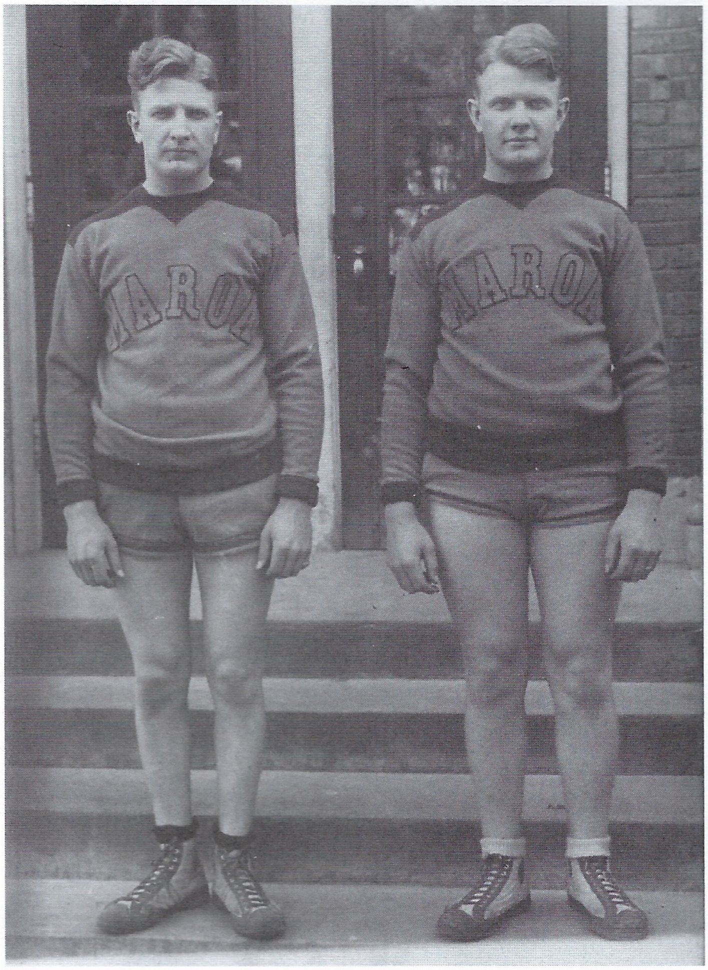
THE VOICE OF
MAROA

Milford, Harold, Keith, Ross, Cordell and Robert Jr., RD Bolen, Sr. in rear. One of seven Brother Basketball Teams in the US in 1923. They played the High School for Benefit of the Red Cross during the Christmas Vacation in 1924 - losing 25-22 before an overflow crowd.

CHAMPIONSHIP
1908
LINCOLN CHAUTAUQUA
BASE BALL
LEAGUE
MAROA HIGH SCHOOL

The 1908 baseball league was conducted during August 12-25 in 1908 and

Helen (Buck) Conour and her basketball team. She was one of nine children born to William Buck and Sophronia (Williams) Buck on August 10, 1896 in Waynesville, Illinois. At an early age her parents moved to Maroa where William Buck was employed at a brick mason. I believe that at one time he laid all the sidewalks in Maroa. Helen was the only one of her family to graduate from the Maroa High School in 1915. She sang at the Opera House between Acts.



Charlie and Herb Kammarmeyer in basketball uniform in 1920's. Courtesy of Larry Nix.

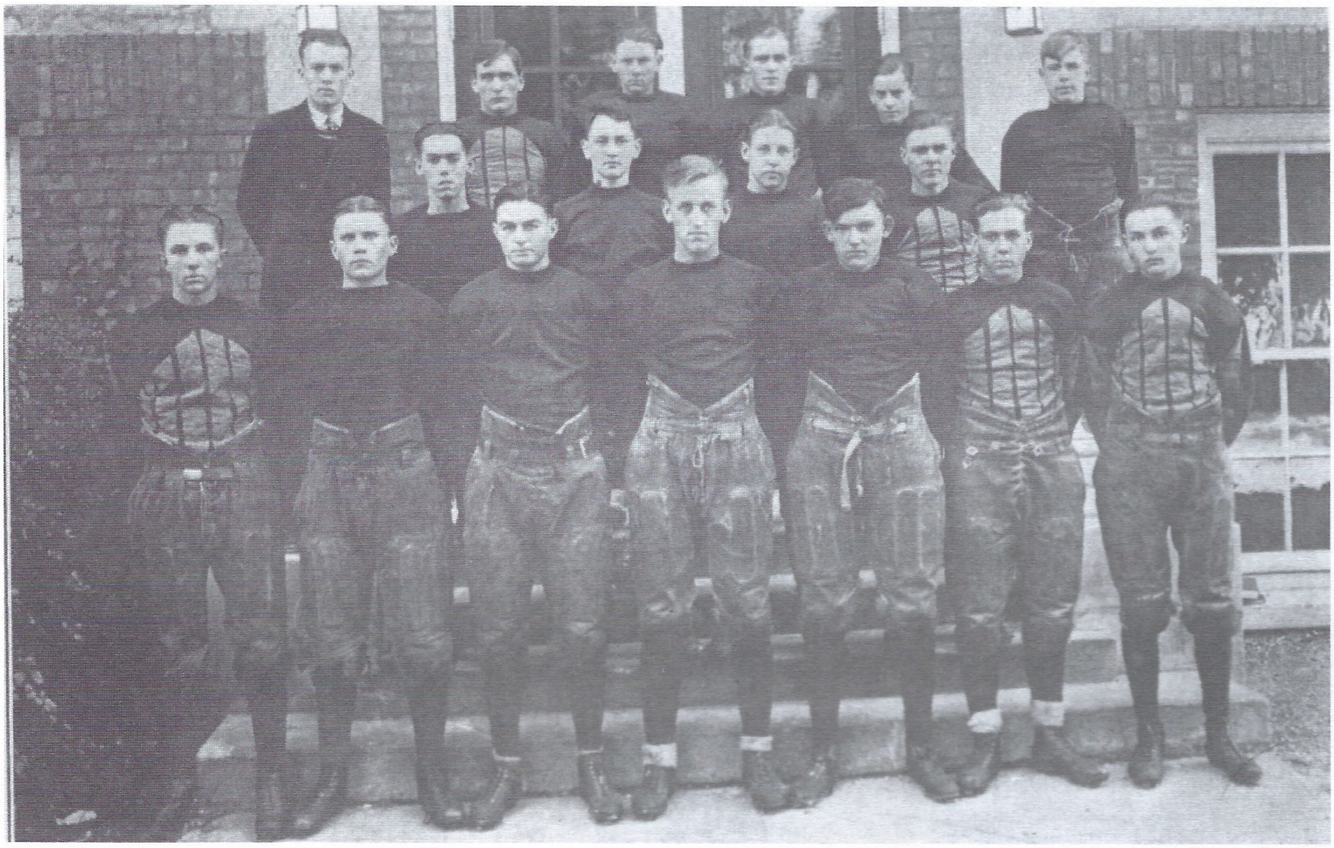
Semi-pro Baseball was very prominent here from about 1912 to 1917, when it was stopped by World War I. Among its players was one who, years later, became one of the outstanding managers in the Big Leagues and is now Manager of Oakland, California, in the Pacific Coast League, Mr. Charlie Dressen. Other players on those teams were Phil and Travis Redmon, Ross and Clifford Bolen, Wesley Bowman, Shorty Ellison, A. C. "Doc" Ammann, Newell Harris, Don Magill, Fritz Wassem, Mush Augustine, Raymond Kitchen, Ernest Maxey, Dolly Gray, Wray Cramer and a few others. Wray Cramer had the distinction of catching every game those teams played over a period of five years.

Tennis was also quite active during those same years. A fine tennis court was located just west of the present P & E Hatchery. Some very good tennis players enjoyed it for several years.

Later, several took up golf and enjoyed its recreation. At the time of the centennial in 1954 High School sports and golf seem to be most prominent in the Maroa World of Sports.

In 1957, the Maroa High School Boy's Basketball team became regional champions. At that time, there was only one high school basketball champion crowned in the entire state of Illinois.

The early 1920 basketball team posing here in front of the school.



The 1928 Maroa Football squad
Top row L-r: A. Andes, Fishel, Luckenbill, Stevens.
Second row l-r: Mr. Hull (Coach), McKinney, Waller, Creekmur, Margenthaler, Ammann.
Third row l-r: Fritts, H. Andes, Gardner, Lyons, Adams, Smart, Parlier.

Edna Rogers - 1920.

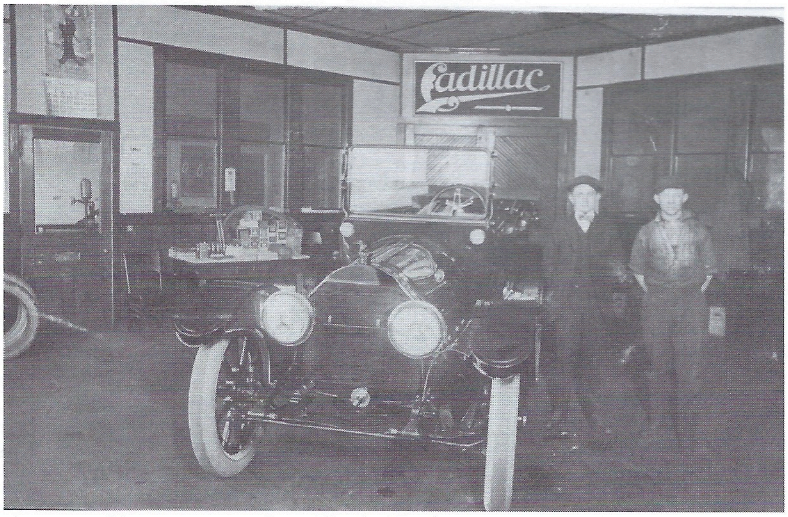
The James Millikin University

Edna Rogers display - 1930.

Edna Rogers Sunday School Class 1991

From the Centennial...Chris and Bertha Friis were married December 28, 1898 and have lived in the same house ever since. He has lived in it for 66 years. They have 2 children, 5 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Left: Helen Bolen and Hazel Creekmur proud to be part of the Red Cross.



A postcard letter to Mom from Charles Creekmur: Here I am in my working close. I have been inspecting the car to see that it is in condition to deliver. This is one of my boy friends I run with some. This is our office . The picture was taken with a flash light. The boy name is Harold Elliot.

Charlie Creekmur taken April 7, 1918

According to the Maroa Trojanaire yearbook: Having a balanced scoring attack, the Trojans of Maroa won their first regional championship. LeRoy was swamped in the first round game 84-40. Bloomington, Co-champs of the Big Twelve Conference, fell 86-62; and Argenta was stopped 82-57.

Gary McClung led the scores with 55, Ken Chalcraft had 54, and Jim Brown was third with 52. Gary and Ken also led the team in rebounding with 44 and 39 respectively.
The championship game was played with an overflowing crowd on hand.

Maroa continued its winning ways in the Sectional Tourney by upending Taylorville, 57-54, due largely to a second half rally, led by Fred Staudt. Ken Chalcraft turned in a magnificent floor and scoring game. James Brown, Gary and Lonnie McClung ably aided the Trojan's cause.

Possibly the sweetest victory of the year came over highly regarded Warrensburg-Latham. Trailing at the half by three points, Maroa's cause looked very dim. As the third quarter wore on the fruits of victory seemed to slip from Maroa's grasp. With 4:00 remaining in the fourth quarter, a brace of free throws by Dick Thomas enabled Maroa to take a one point lead and from that point on, like the Trojans of old, they fought valiantly and achieved the ultimate 59-50 victory and a bid to the "Sweet-Sixteen" of the best basketball teams in the state of Illinois.

In the Super-Sectional game, Maroa lost a sqeaker to Champaign 57-56.

Maroa-Forsyth has had some very good teams in the various sports that have been popular the last 50 years. The most popular ones have been football, basketball, and baseball for the boys. The girls have started playing basketball, volleyball, and softball.

The football team has also had several good years. In 1981-82 they placed second in the Class I-A of the State Tournament. In 1983-84 they also placed second in the Class I-A State Tournament. Many years they were the Conference Champions and played in the State Playoffs.

The baseball team was the Sectional Champion in 1981-82 and played in the State finals. They were also Sectional Champions in 1984-85,1989-90 and 1994-95 and played in the State Quarter Finals.

In 1970-71, the girls archery team placed first in the State Tournament.

The girls volleyball team played in the Sectional finals in 1990-91. The team has been the Regional Champion many years. The basketball teams have also been Conference Champions many years. In 1998-99,1999-00, and 2000-01 they were the Regional Champions.

The girls golf teams have been very successful since they have played as a team since 1998-99 school year. They placed 5th in the State in 1999-00,3rd in the State in 2000-01, 2nd in the State in 2001-02 and 2002-03.

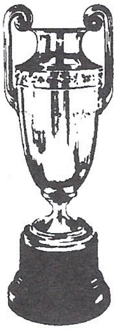
The girls started playing softball in 1985-86. In 1987-88 they were a Sectional finalist. They have been Regional champions several years.

High School
Maroa
'11

The 1911 High School classes in Maroa.

Varsity Basketball Scores

Maroa	52	Elkhart	59	
Maroa	40	Argenta	39	
Maroa	80	Bethany	46	
Maroa	92	Lovington	43	
Maroa	82	Mt. Zion	42	
Maroa	50	Warr. -Lath.	48	
Maroa	66	Atlanta	64	
	LAKEVIEW TOURNAMENT			
Maroa	82	Mt. Zion	51	
Maroa	74	Lakeview	54	
Maroa	85	Tri-City	43	(Title)
Maroa	85	Niantic	39	
Maroa	55	Warr. -Lath.	77	
Maroa	67	Bethany	51	
Maroa	73	Deland-Weld.	71	
Maroa	91	Argenta	54	



	MACON COUNTY TOURNAMENT			
roa	89	Niantic	46	
roa	82	Argenta	64	
roa	36	Warr. -Lath.	39	(Title)
roa	64	Macon	39	
roa	90	Niantic	50	
roa	76	Beason	38	
roa	84	Lovington	39	
roa	84	Mt. Zion	64	
roa	52	Lakeview	37	
roa	69	Assumption	39	
roa	72	Farmer City	60	
	CLINTON REGIONAL			
roa	84	LeRoy	40	
roa	86	Bloomington	64	
roa	82	Argenta	57	(Title)
	DECATUR SECTIONAL			
roa	57	Taylorville	54	
roa	59	Warr. -Lath.	50	(Title)
	SUPER-SECTIONAL			
roa	56	Champaign	57	

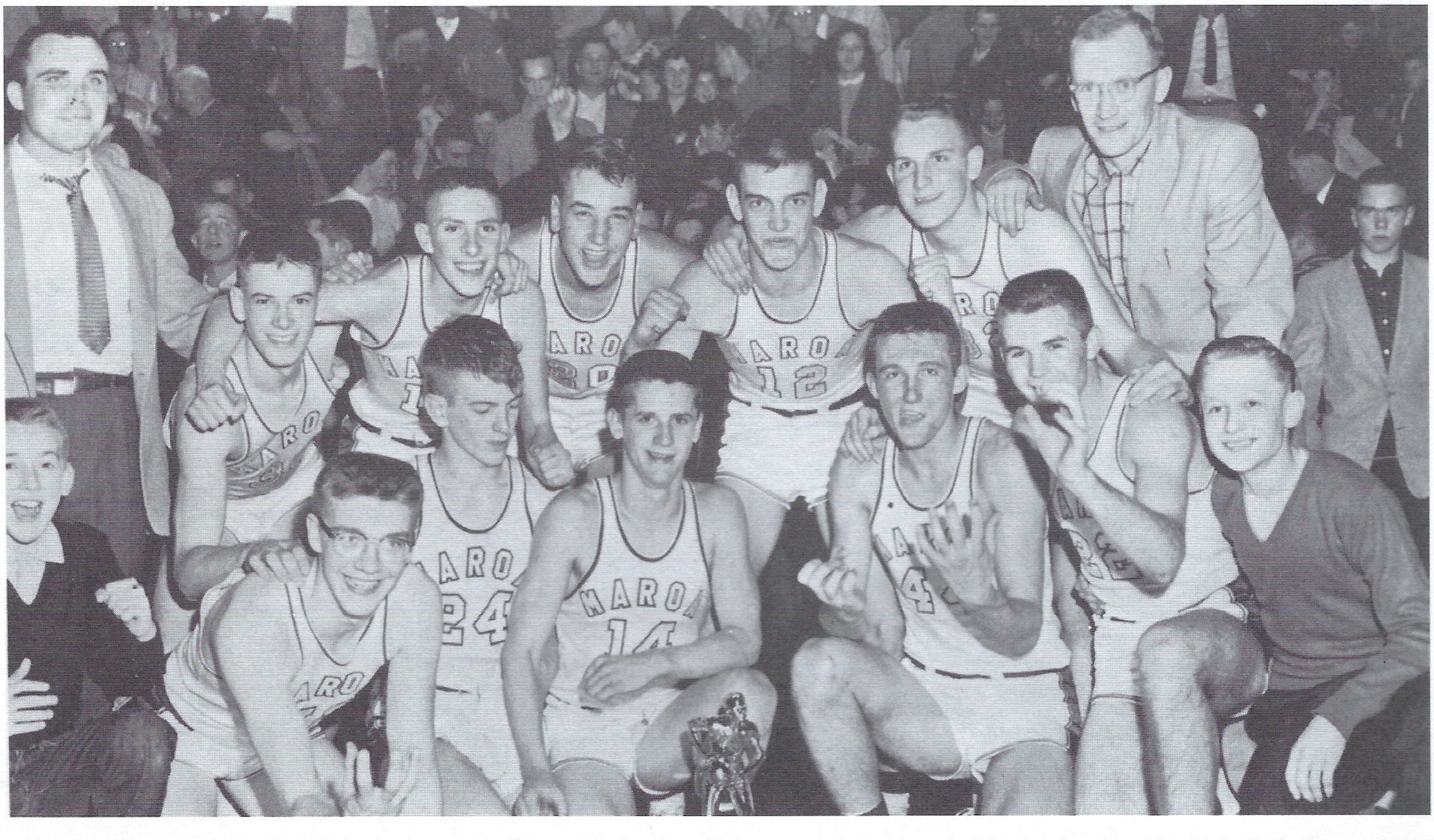
ASON TOTAL - 29 WON   LOST 3

1956 Basketball Scores

TIDBITS

As owner of Fine Things I was able to handle all the sesquicentennial items, such as the cookbooks, t-shirts, sweatshirts, coins, calendars, buttons and etc. that were for sale. I enjoyed people coming in to chat as they were excited about purchasing their items. It was fun to be a active part of this committee.

Joy F. Gardner, Sesquicentennial committee member, age 65,



Maroa High School basketball 1957 regional champs back when there was only I class for the High school basketball championship.
From L to R back row: Coach Herman Edwards, Gary McClung, Phil Odle, Larry James, Bob Connelly,
Curt Wilson, Jerry Wattles, Coach Walter Boyd
front row: R Hughes, Fred Staudt, Lonny McClung, James Brown, Kenneth Chalcraft, Dick Thomas, Ron Gossman

Softball Team
Back row: Roger James, Walter Boyd, "Dutch" Sybert, Benny Myers, Elston Mitchell, John Rose, Bob Bolen.
Front Row: Dave Catlin, "Pete" Young, John Leach, Dave Hughes, Larry Peal, and batboy, Terry Peal.
This team won third place in State of Illinois Softball in 1948. State Tourney Scores:
Maroa 3 Morehouse and Wells (Decatur) 2
Maroa 4 Tom's Grill (Decatur) 1
Maroa 2 Decatur Moose 0
Maroa 6 Waverly 0
Maroa 3 Mt. Vernon 2
Maroa 0 Champaign 3

Soya Conference Champs 1955
Front row Left to Right: Coach Walter Boyd, Carol Query, Harold Arnold, Robert Connely, Larry Haines, Jim Flint, Don Wisnasky, Dean Cole, Ken Chalcraft, Dick Thomas, Paul Seelbach, Lloyd Rodgers.
back row: John Ray Kitner, Ed Crabtree, David Howland, Tom Meador, Bill Walden, George Bennett, Bob Braden, Bob Haenny, David Smith, Dick Stone, Lonny McClung, Bob Lienhart, Phillip Hunt, Butch Brown, Duane Boyer, Richard Lazelle, Barr Stoutenborough, Sid Foulke, Norman Howland, Assistant Coach Herman Edwards. Photo courtesy of M&M Café

Major league sports teams have drafted two graduates of Maroa Forsyth High School.
The first to be drafted was Kevin Koslofski who graduated in 1984. He was drafted by the Kansas City Royals, in June 1984, and played with them for 11 years. He then went to the Milwaukee Brewers and played with them for 2 years. He last played with the St Louis Cardinals for 1 year. In his first at-bat against Hall of Famer, Nolan Ryan, he hit a home run.

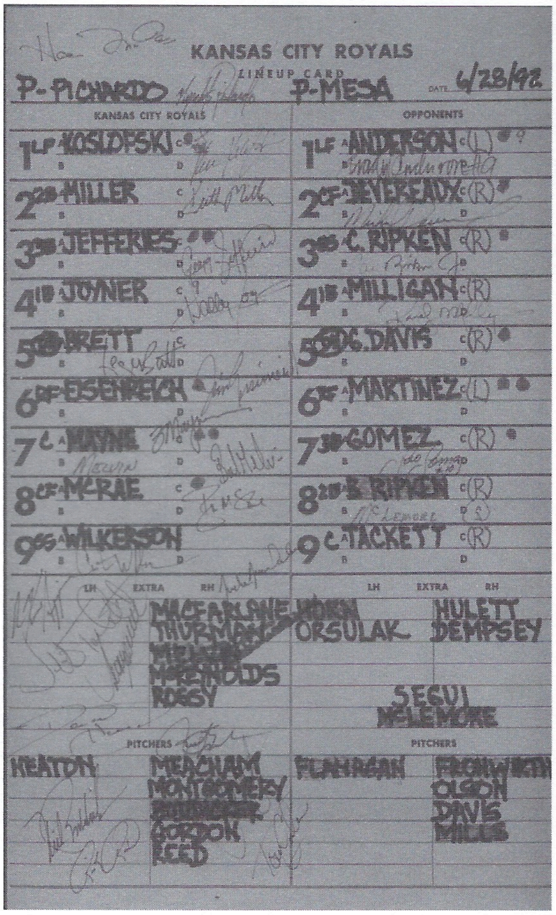
Kevin now lives in Decatur with his wife, daughter, and twin boys.

Jeff Query was drafted in the 5th round of the 1989 draft by the Green Bay Packers. He played with them for 3 seasons. On February 1992, he signed with the Houston Oilers. He played only the Pre-season with them because of a pulled hamstring. They gave him an injury settlement, and wanted to put him back on the active roster. The NFL said, "to do so, you have to put him through a 24 hour waiver wire." He was claimed by the Cincinnati Bengals. He played with them for 4 years and led the team in receptions in 1993. He retired after having hamstring problems.
Jeff now lives in Houston, Texas.

The teams played in the Meridian conference for many years, and when it was broken up they joined the Okaw Valley Conference. Teams in this Conference are: Maroa-Forsyth, Argenta-Oreana, Clinton, Central A. & M., Meridian, Monticello, Shelbyville, St. Teresa, Sullivan, and Warrensburg-Latham.

Maroa-Forsyth High School started co-oping with other schools in the mid '90*s so more students could take part in sports other than those offered in the Maroa-Forsyth schools.

The boys and girls co-op with Warrensburg-Latham in track and soccer. They are known as Warrensburg-Latham with Maroa. The

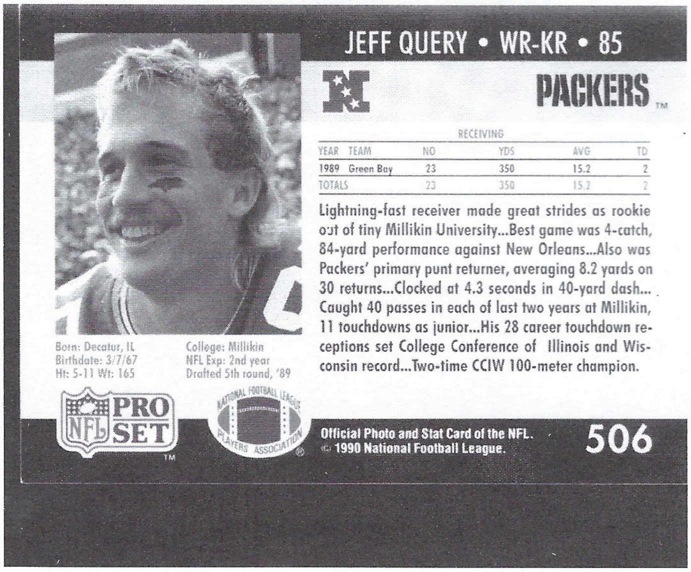


KANSAS CITY ROYALS
LINEUP CARD

P-PICHARDO P-MESA DATE 6/28/92

KANSAS CITY ROYALS	OPPONENTS
1 LF KOSLOFSKI	1 LF ANDERSON (L)
2 2B MILLER	2 CF DEVEREAUX (R)
3 3B JEFFERIES	3 SS C. RIPKEN (R)
4 1B JOYNER	4 1B MILLIGAN (R)
5 DH BRETT	5 DH G. DAVIS (R)
6 RF EISENREICH	6 RF MARTINEZ (L)
7 C MAYNE	7 3B GOMEZ (R)
8 CF McRAE	8 2B B. RIPKEN (R) McLemore
9 SS WILKERSON	9 C TACKETT (R)
EXTRA: MACFARLANE THURMAN [illegible] McREYNOLDS ROSSY	EXTRA: ORSULAK HULETT DEMPSEY SEGUI McLEMORE
PITCHERS: HEATON MEACHAM MONTGOMERY [illegible] GORDON REED	PITCHERS: FLANAGAN FROHWIRTH OLSON DAVIS MILLS

The 1992 Coach's lineup card for the Kansas City Royals on June 28. They were playing the Baltimore Orioles. The leadoff man for Kansas City was Maroa's own Kevin Koslofski. Note some of the other players in that game on both teams: Wally Joyner, George Brett, Cal Ripkin, are just a few of the recognizable names. Thanks to Kevin Koslofski and Larry Nix for sharing this.



JEFF QUERY • WR-KR • 85

PACKERS

RECEIVING					
YEAR	TEAM	NO	YDS	AVG	TD
1989	Green Bay	23	350	15.2	2
TOTALS		23	350	15.2	2

Lightning-fast receiver made great strides as rookie out of tiny Millikin University...Best game was 4-catch, 84-yard performance against New Orleans...Also was Packers' primary punt returner, averaging 8.2 yards on 30 returns...Clocked at 4.3 seconds in 40-yard dash... Caught 40 passes in each of last two years at Millikin, 11 touchdowns as junior...His 28 career touchdown receptions set College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin record...Two-time CCIW 100-meter champion.

Born: Decatur, IL
Birthdate: 3/7/67
Ht: 5-11 Wt: 165

College: Millikin
NFL Exp: 2nd year
Drafted 5th round, '89

Official Photo and Stat Card of the NFL.
© 1990 National Football League.

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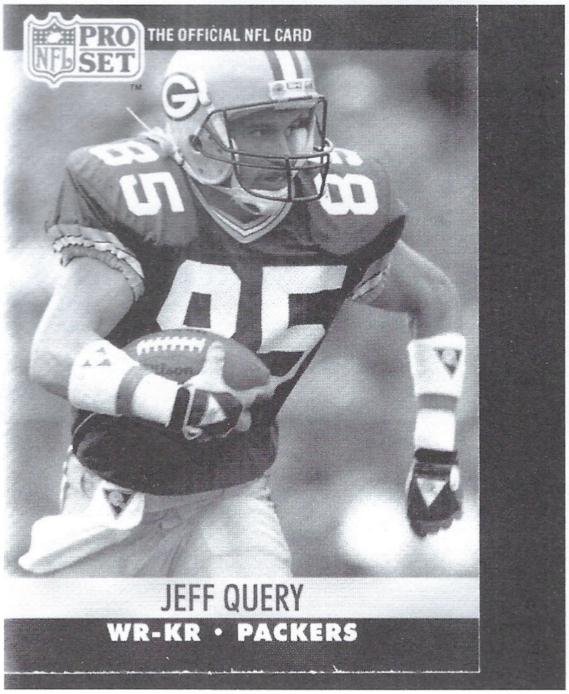
Jeff Query Packers Football Card (Front & Back)



Donald Shockey pictured as homecoming Grand Marshall of 1998. At his funeral in 1999, the starting lineup football team was the pallbearers. He was designated Maroa's #1 sports fan and never missed a game for over 30 years.

TIDBITS

Maroa is my hometown for 66 years. Maroa is still the small town where people work together, play together and worship together.

When I visited my grandparents, who lived up stairs at the Dawson and Wikoff Funeral Home at the corner of Wood and Washington, the interurban station was next door and as the interurban went by it would shake the front porch of the house where we sat.
Ruth Ann Wilson Sesquicentennial committee member age 66

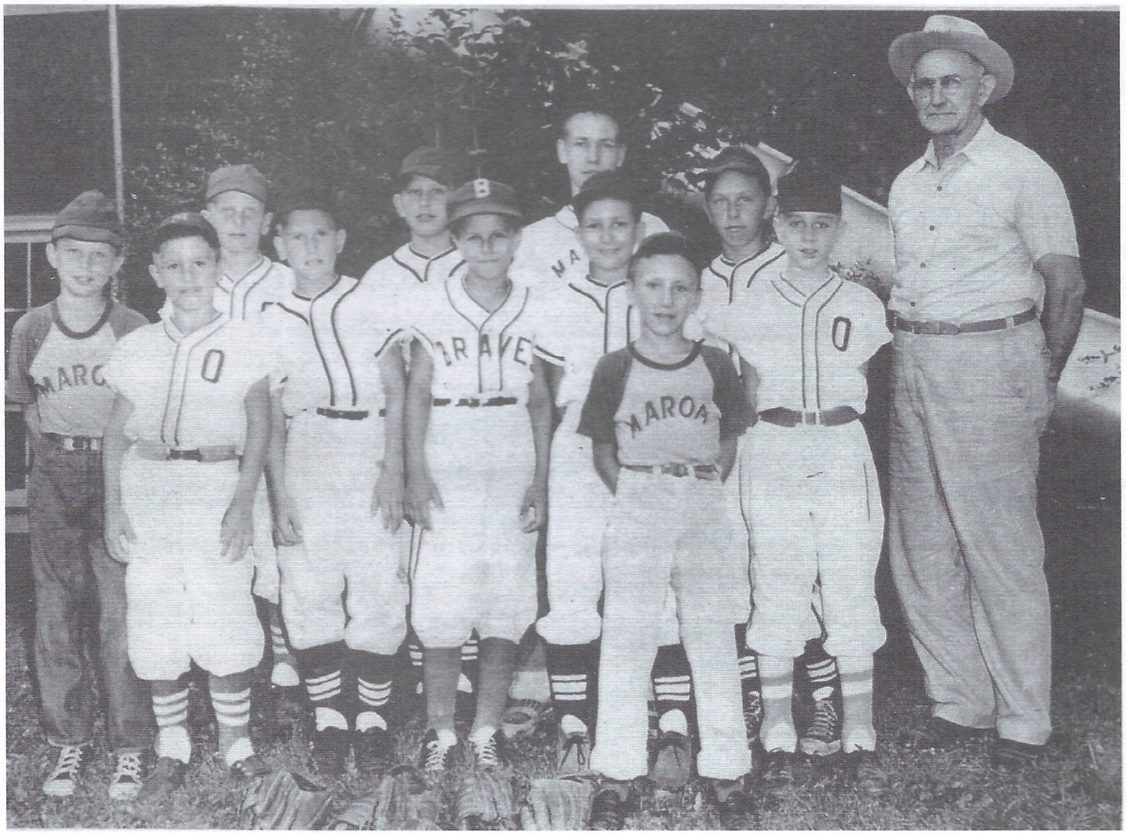
boys co-op with Argenta-Oreana in wrestling and known as Argenta-Oreana. Both the boys and girls co-op with Argenta-Oreana in Cross-Country and are known as Argenta-Oreana. In golf, the boys co-op with Warrensburg-Latham and are known as Maroa-Forsyth. The girls golf team co-op with Warrensburg-Latham and Mt. Zion. It is known as the Maroa-Forsyth team.

Junior High School sports
The Junior High School plays in the Okaw Junior High Conference.
Sports offered for
Boys: Baseball, Basketball, and Track
Girls: Basketball, Volleyball, and Track

1964 Champs! Ball season is just around the corner as the Prairie Post took a look back at the 1964 Maroa Little League Champs. Bottom Row left to right: Chris Dillow, Bill Weikle, Kenny Bush, Mike Darling, Howard Osborn, Mark Pinney, Terry Weikle, Tom Stoutenborough, Ed Greutman.
Top row: Tony Lopez, Brad Wilkey, Chris Warner, Larry Day, John Halicki, Richard Young, Pat Windlan, Dennis Hamilton, Bill Zombro. Coaches Harold Dunham and Frank Weikle.
Photo courtesy of M&M Café

The 1971 Illinois State Archery champions from Maroa (left - right): Mrs. Florence Berry, sponsor; Martha Coen, Luann Wikoff, Kit Stoutenborough, Teresa Woodard, Carol Crouch. There was only one class in the entire state of Illinois for the Archery championships.

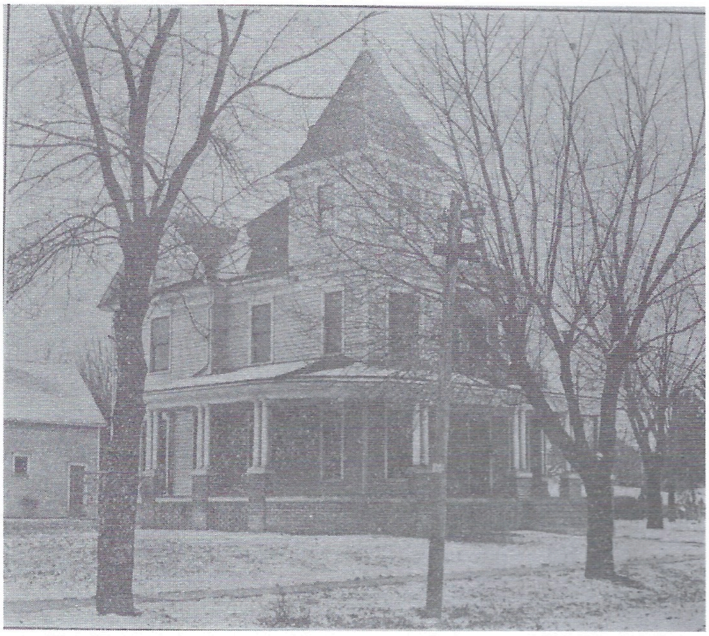
1940 Maroa Football



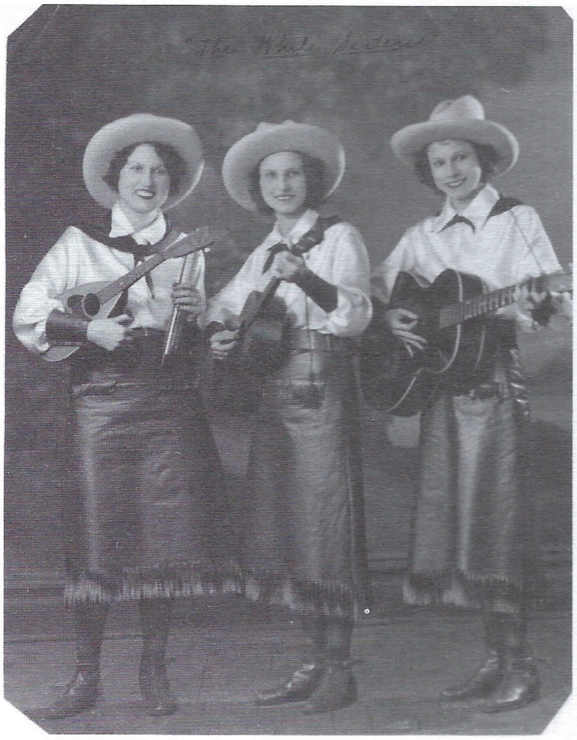
Fred Weikle ball team of grandsons in 1960. Taken behind the old grade school (see the fire chute).
From Left to right front row: Terry Weikle
Second row: Dennie Hill, Randy Oakes, Mike Evans, Dave Kinkaid, Bob Hill
Third row: Tom Weikle, John Hill, Donnie Weikle, Steve Kinkaid, Jim Weikle, Coach Grandpa Weikle. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.

Trevor and Loretta Fay Leach. Trevor won second in the 6-8 year division. Loretta Fay won third in tricycle parade.

Mr. and Mrs. Velma Davis have been married 49 years. Mr. Davis was born on a farm near Maroa. Mrs. Davis was born on a farm southwest of Maroa. She lived in Nebraska for 2 years and outside of that time has resided in the vicinity of Maroa. They are the couple who have been married the longest and are native born. They have 2 children, 2 grandchildren and 4 great-granddaughters.



$6,000 home of T. C. Grady at 230 West Washington. Built in 1905 by Ed Hendrix. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.



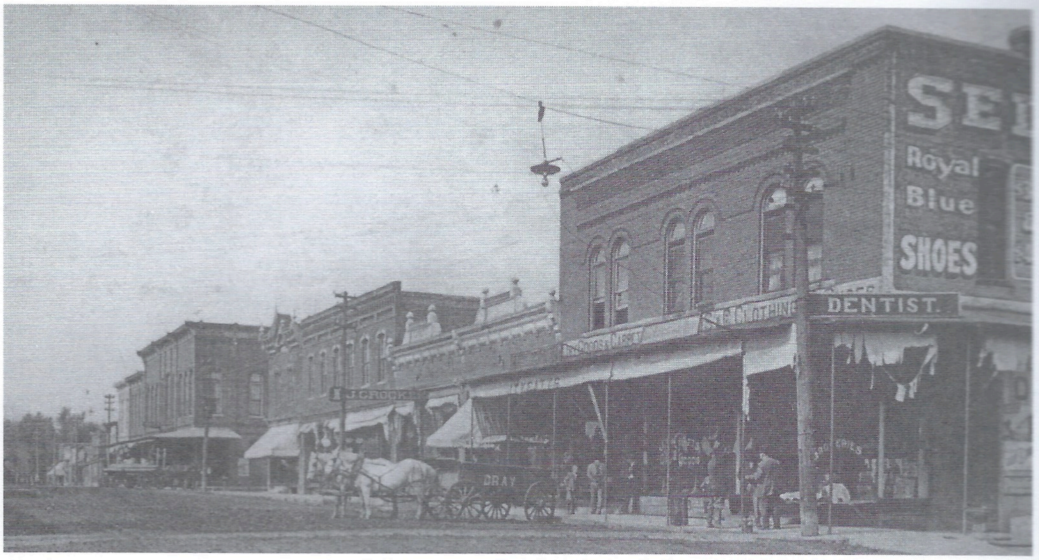
The White sisters in the 1930's. Left to right: Adelle Thompson, Lena Heien, Christine Dratwick.

MAROA TIDBIT

Thomas N. Leavitt (1838-1919) was born at Hampton Falls, New Hampshire. He moved to Peoria County, Illinois, in 1844 and to Maroa in 1861. His wife was Catherine Crowell. He was a grocer for awhile and then went into the implement business. In 1862 he enlisted in the army and was in the Atlanta campaign, accompanying General Sherman on his march to the sea. Mr. and Mrs. Leavitt had one daughter, Clara.

John and Leafy Larson -1954.

Riding the horse is Russell Braden, and Edwin Braden posing for a postcard in 1912. Standing is Mae Braden Schroeder



From the corner of Main and Hickory looking west. Photo courtesy of M&M Café at 119 West Main

SOUTH WALNUT ST.
MAROA, ILL.

South Walnut Street looking south from corner of Main and Walnut street. Photo courtesy of M&M Café

4 young ladies riding sidesaddle on Main street. The lady on the white horse on right is Louise (McLean) Gentle. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.

Mary F. Zombro

February 2, 1924 - July 26, 2002

5 children
1 girl 4 boys

during WWII
worked in defense plant
In Peoria

President Maroa
American Legion
Auxillary

President Grade School PTA

Wikoff Funeral Home at a reverent funeral with state of art horse-drawn carriage.

MAROA 4-H CLUBS

The first 4-H clubs formed in Maroa in the 1920s and 30s were project clubs. Members joined to pursue one project, such as sewing or cooking or flowers or agriculture. Information in the 1954 book details names and dates of these clubs. Eventually, the project clubs dissolved leaving Maroa Livestock 4-H Club as the remaining 4-H club in the town. It opened membership to both boys and girls in a variety of projects in addition to agriculture. The club has the charter for the Maroa Livestock 4-H Club, but unfortunately, it is not dated. Based on the signatures and terms of service for these individuals, it is concluded that this charter was obtained between 1932 and 1938.

In 2004 the 4-H membership for Macon County is made up of 81 percent from a central city, 18 percent from a small town, and 1 percent from rural areas. The variety of projects available in 2004 reflects this change with the addition of dozens of projects that were not available in the 1950s. The 2004 Maroa Livestock 4-H Club has 20 members, both boys and girls, who are enrolled in cooking, sewing, and flower arranging, as well as aerospace, photography, visual arts, recycling, child care, journalism, computers, interior design, horticulture, electricity, intercultural life, and woodworking. The only "livestock" in the 2004 Maroa Livestock club are pets; and members are enrolled in cats, dogs, horses, small pets, and veterinary science. However, true to the Maroa Livestock roots, two boys are enrolled in tractors and small engines, and one girl is enrolled in crops. She won Best of Show in corn at the 2004 Macon County Fair.

The Maroa Livestock 4-H Club meets about once a month at the Maroa United Methodist Church. The 2004 club officers are President Hayley Bunselmeyer, Vice President Nathan Blair, Secretary Tera Kapraun, Treasurer Emily Reed, Historian Aftan Noon, Reporter Tyler Marsh, and Recreation Leaders Mitchel Williams and Maggie Tucker. General leaders are David Williams and Sue Bunselmeyer, assisted by Julie Keith and Diane Daggett.

The club focuses on leadership, public speaking, community service and fellowship. In 2004 Maroa Livestock donated a drinking fountain to the Maroa baseball field, made tray favors for Decatur Meals on Wheels, raised money for St. Jude Hospital in the Bicycle Ride-a-thon, sold desserts at the sesquicentennial dinners, planted a tree at Spencer Park in honor of Maroa's sesquicentennial, helped build the Maroa Haunted House, and participated in the Maroa Christmas Parade.

Projects are judged at the Macon County fair, which in 2004 was held June 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 at the county fairgrounds in the north west side of Decatur, Illinois. When judges have completed individual project judging at the County Fair, they select a Best of Show in the award area. Most areas award a Best of Show and all that do are identified in the County Fair book. This year the Best of Shows for livestock received a trophy and most of the non-livestock projects received a clock. The Best of Show livestock and up to ten of the non-livestock will be asked to sell their projects in the Macon County 4-H Foundation Sale of Champions.

After judging the individual projects and selecting the Best of Show awards at the County Fair, the judges must select the State Fair exhibits. Not all project areas are eligible to go to the State Fair and these too are identified in the County Fair book so the members know ahead of time which projects may be able to go on to State Fair and which ones are only County projects. Also, members must be 10 years old by September 2003 in order to attend the State Fair this 4-H year. I don't know why the age requirement is what it is, but I do know it has been in effect for the last 20 years. It is an Illinois State 4-H rule and Macon County must abide by it. Thirdly, the Illinois State 4-H office determines how many

MAROA
LIVESTOCK
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS
84
31

Some of the 2004 Livestock 4-H group. Left to right holding sign: Hayley Bunselmeyer, Emily Reed. In front: Tyler Marsh, Mitchell Williams, Jeremy Sarna, Maggie Tucker (Under sign), Mallory Keith, Brandon Marsh, Afton Noon, Austin Noon.

State Fair projects each county may send based on the total county 4-H enrollment in each area. For instance, this year there were 17 Best of Show awards given in Foods projects but only 12 exhibits selected for State Fair. In Visual Arts, Macon County awarded 18 Best of Shows, but 16 were selected for State Fair. However, in Woodworking the County chooses one Best of Show and 4 projects were selected for State. It all depends on how many members are enrolled in each project area. Each member may only take one project to State Fair. If someone has multiple projects eligible for State Fair, they must choose which one they are going to take and then an alternate is contacted to see if they would like to take their project. This year 68 youth are attending from Macon County.

The 2004 4-H Livestock members are: Nathan Blair, Hayley Bunselmeyer, Elizabeth Daggett, Andrew Hastings, Kayla Heise, Tera Kapraun, Mallory Keith, Brandon Marsh, Tyler Marsh, Aftan Noon, Austin Noon, Natalie Ramirez, Emily Reed, Jeremy Sarna, Marian Stauder, Tyler Stoutenborough, Maggie Tucker, Mitchel Williams, Bryson Young, and Ryan Zelhart.

Projects members are enrolled in this year are: Aerospace, Small Pets, Dogs, Cats, Horses, Veterinary Science, Child Care, Recycling, Clothing, Journalism, Computers, Let's Start Cooking, Breads and Cereals, Dairy Foods, Preservation, Exploring Food Heritage, Microwaving, Tricks for Treats, You Learn to Bake, Horticulture, Flower Arranging, Passport to the World, Interior Design, Photography, Small Engines, Tractors, Visual Arts, Woodworking, Leadership, Corn, Soybeans, Campcraft, Electricity, Walk in My Shoes.

Seven members' projects received Best of Show Awards at the Macon County Fair. They are:

Best of Show Foods Demonstration - Tera Kapraun
Best of Show Tricks for Treats Foods Project - Tera Kapraun
Best of Show You Learn to Bake Foods Project - Emily Reed
Best of Show Herb Garden Exhibit - Mallory Keith
Best of Show Creative Baking - Hayley Bunselmeyer
Best of Show Original Knitting - Hayley Bunselmeyer
Best of Show Corn - Hayley Bunselmeyer

Some won honors at the 2004 Illinois State Fair. Through the years Maroa Livestock members have won a variety of county, state and national awards. Currently, Corey Zelhart, a 10-year past Maroa Livestock Club member, is currently attending University of Illinois with the help of a $2,000 Macon County 4-H Foundation scholarship, given for his outstanding 4-H career work.

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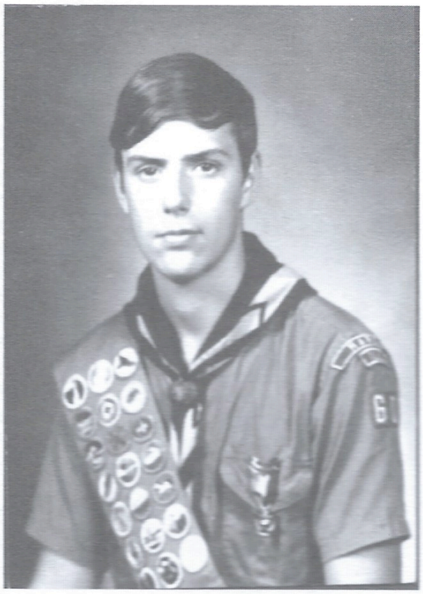
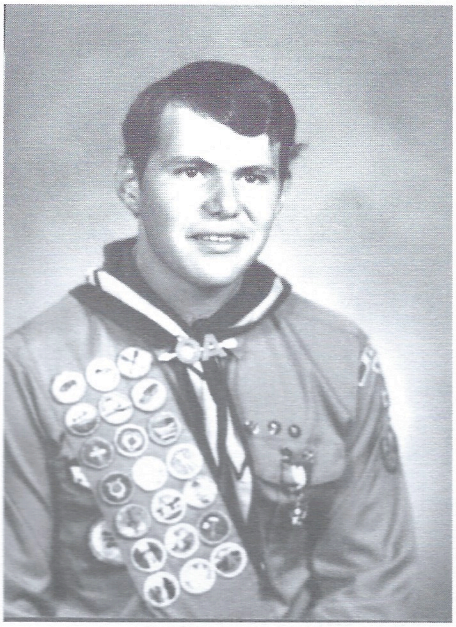
American Eagles are Alive and well, in Maroa Illinois

Maroa scout troup 60 was reactivated in 1966, and in 1
they had five scouts attain the
rank of Eagle scout.
And for the first time in Lincoln Trails council hist
four brothers attanded the rank at the same time.

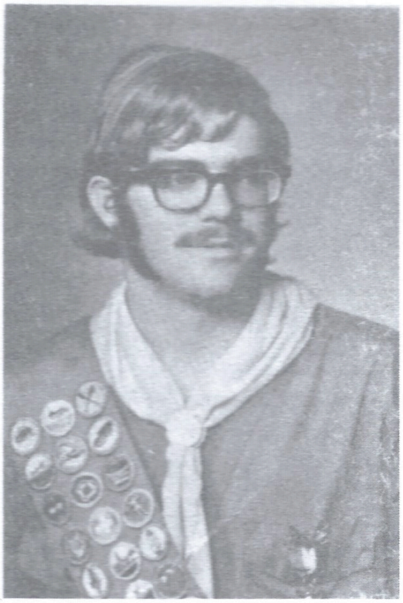


Dennis Bragg 1971

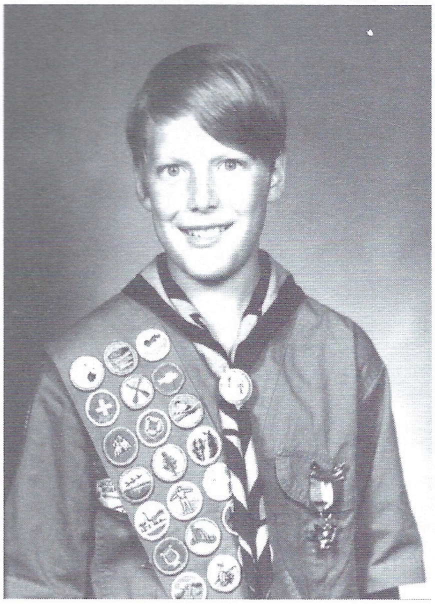
On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight



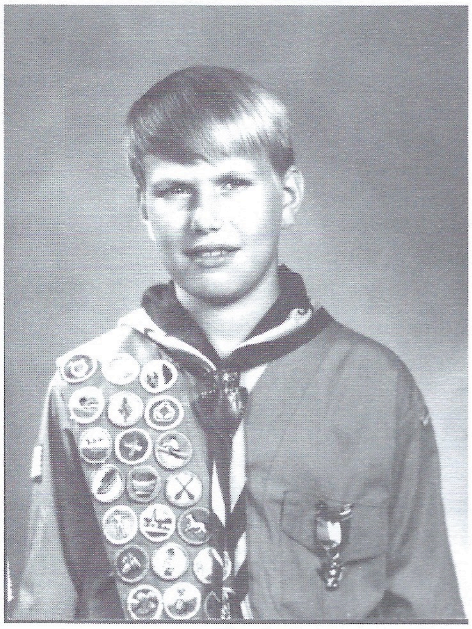
Dave Bragg 1971



Jim Kennison 1971



Jim Bragg 1971



Chris Bragg 1971

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MAROA-FORSYTH TROOP 61
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Sponsoring Charter Organization - Forsyth United Methodist Church, Pastor Roger Grimmett

Meeting time: 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., the second and fourth Thursdays of the month.

Location: Forsyth United Methodist Church basement.

In 2004, the Scouts will participate in community service projects, caving (cave exploration) in Indiana, summer camp at Camp Drake near Danville, Illinois, a boundary waters canoeing trip, hiking at Starved Rock State Park in Illinois, White water rafting on the Vermillion River and many other activities.

Chartered Organization Representative and C-Treasurer: John R Barry Jr.
Committee Chairman: Michael Stickney
Co Treasurer: Elizabeth Barry
Secretary: Robert Richardson
Advancement Committee Chairman: Michelle Lewis
Committee Members: Deborah Bragg, Rebecca Brodnicki, George Buchanan, and Carrie Russell.
The 2004 Troop 61 Roster:
Scoutmaster: James R. Bragg Jr.; Assistant Scout Master: Thomas Lewis; Assistant Scoutmaster: Michael Toro, John "Rick" Barry, Jacob Bragg, Ryan Bragg, Gregory Brodnicki, Christopher Buchanan, Chad Furrow, David Hundley, Matthew King, Andrew Lewis, Joshua Meier, Parker Paulin, Donald Powers, Samuel Richardson, Christopher Russell, Jason Russell, Jordan Sims, Aaron Stickney, Andrew Stickney, Andrew Toro, Matthew Wombacher

M CLUB DINNER

The M club has a long standing tradition of meeting of friends to enjoy company, and have a good time.

In the Saturday April 1, 1961 issue of the Decatur Herald, Bob Falstrom shared some thoughts about the event. And visiting with former athletes.

Back-slapping and hand shaking and remembrances and anecdotes and good fellowship... This was the Maroa High School "M" club dinner at the Elks Club last night. The yearly occasion brought forth a goodly number of letter winning athletes from the past.

Ray (Buster) Cramer, class of 1908 was there. He isn't a letterman because in those days letters were unheard of.

Lee Kempshall, class of 1902, was there.

George Waller, class of 1907, was there.

"We played baseball and football, no basketball. Basketball was a girls game," George recalled.

"We didn't have a coach and we didn't have a schedule," Cramer said. "There weren't any eligibility rules, either. If the football team thought it needed reinforcements in order to beat a certain opponent, it went uptown and recruited the biggest bruisers around." When Charley Dressen, now the Milwaukee Braves manager, broke into semipro baseball in Maroa in about 1913, he was a pitcher. And Cramer was his catcher.

"Dressen signed his first contract at Maroa," Cramer said. "He got $90 a month and room and board. He was a pretty good pitcher and he was brainy then, too... He was the 'brain' of the club."

Bill McGuire chuckled about his football playing days form 1927 - 1930. "I never played in a winning game. Once a Riverton we finished the game with only nine players... We didn't have many to begin with and a couple go hurt!"

McGuire also spun a tale of the player, now dead, who burst through a plate glass door wearing only his birthday suite. It happened as the result of a locker room towel fight.

Then there was the time, in 1925, when Ralph Eaton was playing basketball against Bement in a tournament.

Bement had a star player. The Maroa coach decided the best way to win the game was to have someone start a fight with the Bement star and thus get him kicked out.

Eat was elected. Eaton swung at the Bement player and decked him. But iit was Eaton, not the Bement player, who was tossed out.

When Eaton came back to the bench, the Maroa coach said, according to one version:" What are you good for? You can't even start a decent fight!"

And there was the time, in 1923, when the Bolen brothers played the varsity basketball team in a fund-raising game and almost won, bowing by a mere 23-21. The brothers: Keith, Bob, Ross, Milford, Cordell and Harold, were coached by their father, R. D. Bolen.

The name of Joe Hilt came up again, as it inevitably must. Joe was the basketball player who stepped on the court in his sweat pants at the start of a game in the 1930's when J. Howard Wolfe was the coach.

Wolfe gestured for Joe to shed the sweatpants. Joe did... And stood clad only in an athletic supporter.

The name Rodney Morris, a basketball player, was heard again. Rodney is now in the chips... He teaches casino dealers at the Nevada School of Dealing in Las Vegas.

It was a successful evening. Buck McPhail, University of Illinois assistant football coach, spoke. The members re-elected Ralph Eaton president and picked George R Austin vice president and Dick Irvin Secretary -treasurer.

And the fifth annual meeting was set for the same date and site in 1962.

Timothy Miller, M.D.

Suite 145-B
241 W. Weaver Rd.
Forsyth, Illinois
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
217-876-5220

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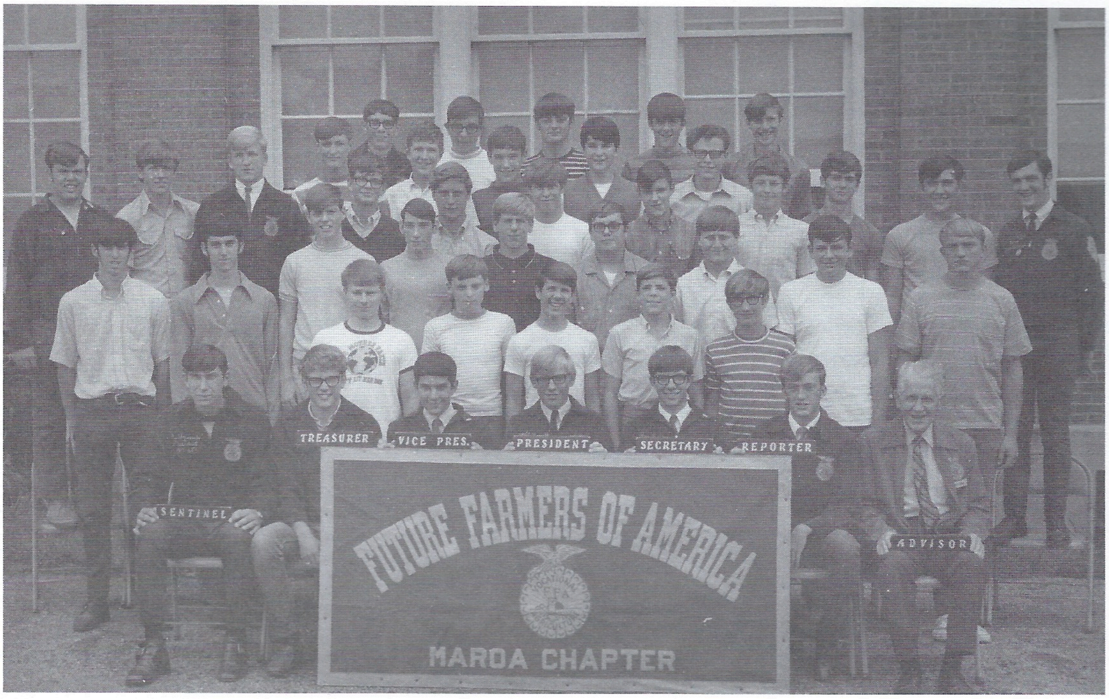
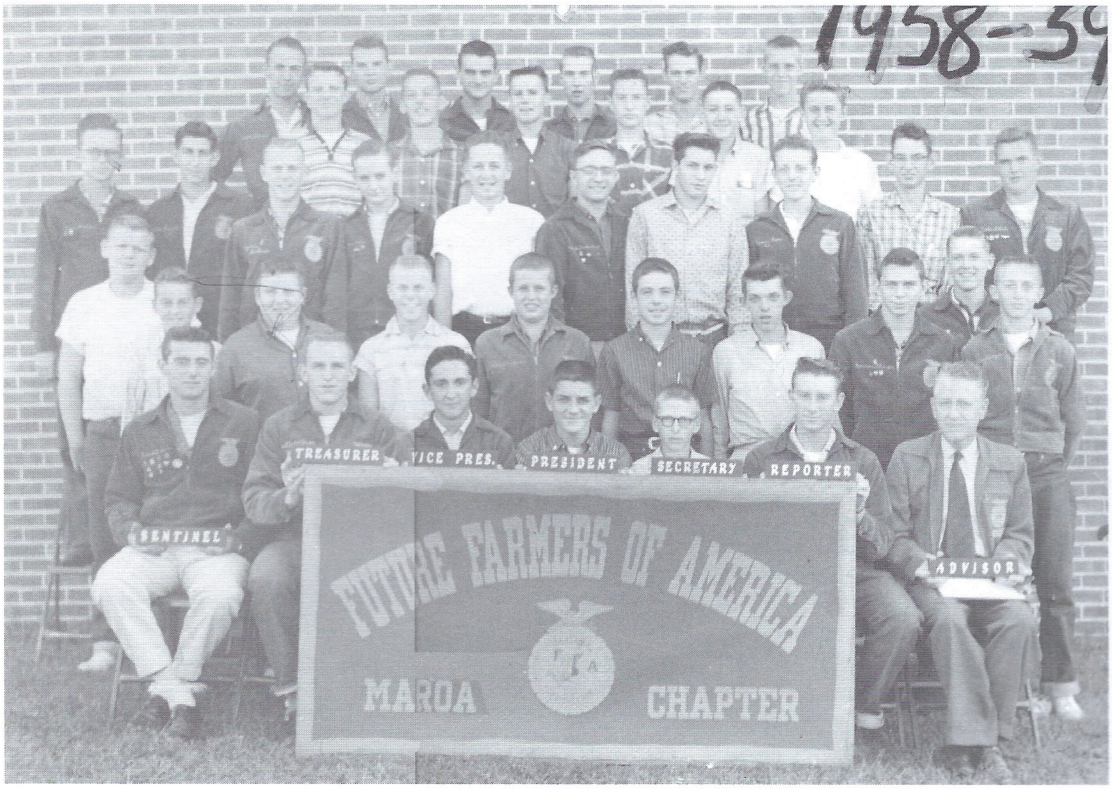
Maroa, Illinois
Monday Wednesday Friday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
217-794-5472


TREASURER
VICE PRES.
PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
REPORTER
SENTINEL
ADVISOR
FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA
MAROA CHAPTER

1971 (Left to right)
Front Row : Ed Doak, Roger Dial, Bob Daggett, Verneil Leggett, Ron Braden, John Fenton, Mr. Nicol.
2nd Row: Unknown , Steve Holland, John Zeihart, Kevin Montgomery, Craig Hill.
3rd Row David Beck, Darrell Beck, Mark Chenoweth, John Leaeh, Morris Johnson, Brian Walters, Dick Weikle, Jeff Hauffe, Steve Shaw.
4th Row Chuck Meece, Joe Sanders, Dale Edgecombe, Jerry Wallace, Bill Weikle, Kenny Bush, Dennis Bragg, Dean Rayburn, Dennis Phipps, Stan Weikle, Tom Stoutenborough.
5th Row Rick Schroll, Skip Daggett, Rick Stoutenborough, Greg Hart, Jack Shaw.


1958-59
TREASURER
VICE PRES.
PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
REPORTER
SENTINEL
ADVISOR
FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA
MAROA
CHAPTER

1958-59
Front row: Everett Grissom, Curtis Wilson, David Braden, Bobby Rose, Ronnie Wikoff, Bob Doak, Mr. Nicol.
2nd row: Dick Brelsfoard, Doug Stoutenborough, Mike Perkins, Bill Liembach, Lloyd Little, Ed Hensley, Norman Lehman, Bob Howell, Lynn Rogers.
3rd row: Wayne Runyen, John Perkins, D'ean Cole, John Parker, Hank Hockaday, Jim Etnier, D Rose, Darrell Wattles, Tom Dash.
4th row: Oren Groves, Rollin Goodrich, Walt Query, Danny Edgecombe, Harold Marlow, Roger Schultz, LaVerne Malone, Alan Marsh, Melvin Feathers, Robert Cooper, Glen Streich, Richard Hoffman, Roy Hanks, Eddie Fore.

MAROA PUBLIC LIBRARY

August 27th, 1870 Rev. J.A. Hood organized the Maroa Library Association. It is believed that the Library Association closed it's doors in the 20's and stored the books.

In 1937 a library in Maroa was established by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). It was supervised by six committee members. Mrs. N.B. Stoutenborough, Mrs. George Stoutenborough, Mrs. Robert Stoutenborough, Mrs. W.C. McGuire, Mrs. W.H. Meils and Otis Miller. It also had two library clerks, Mrs. Mary Chandler and Mrs. Bessie Vaughn. When the WPA project discontinued, the City of Maroa helped finance the library.

In 1945 it was voted to put the library on township support. The Maroa Township Library held 3,200 volumes, and subscribed to 15 periodicals with 960 registered residents.

In 1965, the value of the Maroa Township Library has been greatly increased by it's affiliation with the Illinois State Library at Springfield and the Rolling Prairie Library at Decatur.

The library has been through many librarians throughout the past 134 years, Mrs. Mildred I. Foulke, Mrs. Charles Camp, Mrs. Vida Schultz, Mrs. Edwin Foulke, Mrs. Lil Halicki, Mrs. Vera Braden, Mrs. Joanne Cloud, Mrs. Annette DeClerk, and Mrs. Marilyn Gentle.

Current Library Staff:
Director: Dawnette Weikle
Assistant Director: Penny Meece
Children's Director: Denise Carter

Library Board Members
President - Jim Leach
Vice-President - Stephanie Williams
Treasurer - Connie Hall
Secretary - Bill McGuire
Trustee - Bobbi Mashburn
Trustee - Dave Burnett
Trustee - Homer Weikle

Hours - Tuesday - Friday 9:00 - 6:00, Saturday 8:00 - Noon

Currently there are 2,902 residents within the Library District
Books - 23,959
Periodicals - 140
Videos/DVD's - 1,078
Audio Books - 738

In 2002-2003 we loaned 39,914 materials. We also have 5 computers for public use with access to the Internet.

The Library has also had several locations. The current Library building at 305 East Garfield is located along the old railroad track right of way location. The groundbreaking was in 1997, and moved into the new building in 1998. The building was dedicated on June 7, 1998. Prior to that location it was on Main street at 108 East Main Street.

SCRAPBOOK
EVENING
AUG 6
MAROALIBI
VISITORS CENTER

The 2004 Library board in front of the Library at 305 East Garfield. They are front row l-r: Penny Meece, Denise Carter, Dawnette Weikle. Back row l-r: Homer Weikle, Bill McGuire, Bobbi Mashburn, Connie Hall, Dave Burnett, Jim Leach, Stephanie Williams.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Library was organized and held their first official meeting on February 9, 1998. Officers were elected and they were:
President: Joyce Griffith
1st Vice President: Margaret Marlatt
2nd Vice President: Elisa Lujan
Secretary: Betty Coen
Treasurer: Sally Thicksten

The purpose of the Friends is to work with the LIbrary and the Library board and to assist them with various projects and programs. The Friends, also, have furnished cookies for various events at the Library.

The book sale is the main money making project, and it is held when Maroa has the Spring rummage sale. One year, cinnamon rolls were sold during th Fourth of July celebration and at Christmas time.

The Friends helped the Library when they moved into the current building at 305 East Garfield St from 108 East Main in June 1998. They started the memorial brick and block project in September, 1998 and helped with the gardens behind the LIbrary. They sponsored the Bird House project and arranged after school tutoring one year. They also provide funds for various projects.

During the sesquicentennial celebration the Friends are sponsoring a cemetery walk.

The current board of the Friends of the Library. They were taking a break from getting ready for the book sale that is held in conjunction with the Spring town rummage sales which were May 14 and 15, 2004. From left to right Sally Thicksten, Marilyn Gentle (secretary), Betty Coen, Kathy Hill, Karen Halicki (President). Betty Warmker's picture.

MAROA LIONS CLUB

The Maroa Lions Club was chartered April 9, 1941 with the following as charter members:

George Waller
Robert Stoutenborough
Herbert Kammarmeyer
J. C. Warner
O. H. Meyer
H. E. Adams
James J. Parker
Alfred Lloyd
S. E. Burke
N. B. Stoutenborough
S. D. Rainey
W. D. Milnes
M. J. Nicol
J. Waldo Montgomery
Loren R. Lewis
C. A. Pollard
Gerald Hilt
R. E. Stoutenborough
W. H. Osborn
W. D. Keyes
C. R. Hippard
Fred M. Grady
B. I. Myers
M. E. Huston
D. M. Dewhirst
R. C. Stoutenborough

Four of the projects, which the Maroa Lions Club sponsored in 1954, were:
The Maroa Memorial Community Center Building
The Maroa Countryside Fire Protection District
Installation of Traffic Flasher Signals at the intersection of Route 51 and W. Main Street
Annual Labor Day Chicken Fry with proceeds going toward something for the betterment of the community

Lions Clubs International was founded in Chicago, Illinois in 1917. The Maroa Lions Club was chartered as a chapter of Lions International on April 9, 1941. The Maroa Club currently has 25 members who are part of nearly 1.4 million LIONS Club members in 193 countries worldwide.

The slogan of the association is 'Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nations Safety and the motto of every Lion is simply "We Serve".

Since Lions clubs were established, Lions have been dedicated to giving back to their communities with special emphasis on Blindness, Drug Abuse Prevention and Diabetes awareness. The Maroa Club meets for fellowship and informative sessions on the second and fourth Wednesday nights of each month. In addition to the eyeglass program some of the projects we are involved in include being a Blood Bank sponsor twice a year, hanging the city Christmas decorations each year, helping with delivery of the community Christmas Baskets and a variety of other opportunities as needs occur.

Current Officers are:
President: Bill Turner
Vice President: Terry Horn
Secretary: Jerry Kuykendall
Treasurer: Larry Thicksten
Membership Chairman: Gary Bohner

MAROA CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The Maroa Cemetery Association was formed in 1873 with each person purchasing a lot becoming a stockholder. On June 30, 1888 the stockholders met and organized by electing John Longstreet Chairman, and John H. Crocker Secretary. The following were elected as Directors: John Longstreet, William T. Cooper and William H. Stoutenborough for 1 year; James H. Parker, John Marsh and George Conover for 2 years; William Rainey, Lumuel Wikoff and John H. Crocker for 3 years.

An election of officers was held with the following result: President, James H. Parker; Vice President, John Longstreet; Secretary, John H. Crocker; Treasurer, George Conover.

Mausoleum. Maroa Ill

The Mausoleum was built early in the cemetery history. This 1940 era picture shows its stately corner turrets and front iron gate.

The Mausoleum was built in 1907. The First addition was opened in 1911. On May 1, 1937 the Maroa Cemetery Association conveyed its grounds and appurtenances thereunto belonging, comprising Maroa Cemetery, to the Town of Maroa, which conveyance has been duly accepted by said Town of Maroa, and said Town of Maroa is now the owner of said Cemetery and appurtenances.

On January 10, 1938, the Maroa Township Cemetery Trustees purchased 5 acres from John H. Miller for $250 per acre. The second addition was opened for sale January 6, 1939. The current Maroa Township Cemetery Board of Trustees are: James W. Leach, William C. Faulkner, and Randy W. Runyen.

HISTORY OF MAROA LODGE NO. 454 A. F. & A. M.

Maroa Masonic Lodge held its first meeting on July 4, 1865 by dispensation of the Grand Lodge of Illinois. The officers at that meeting were:
J. H. Axton, W. M.
J. H. Crocker, S. W.
0. J. Harland, J. W.
G. W. Conover, Treasurer
S. Lowe, Secretary

On the 4th day of October, 1865 the lodge was chartered as Maroa Lodge No. 454 A. F. & A. M. Principal officers were:
J. H. Crocker, W. M.
Rufus Crocker, S. W.
0. J. Harland, J. W.

The cornerstone of the Masonic Temple was laid August 19, 1884. Since the loss of the Temple building by fire in 1946 the lodge has met in the Kammarmeyer building.

A new Masonic Temple was built in 1974 at 120 Nourth Walnut Street. The Lodge meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.. There are now 102 members.

MASTERS OF MAROA MASONIC LODGE
J. H. Axton, 1865
J. H. Crocker, 1866-67-68
Rufus C. Crocker, 1869-70
Joseph Jones, 1871-72-73
Thos. N. Leavitt, 1874-75
Wm. M. Phares, 1876 to 83
W. H. Austin, 1884-85
F. M. Smith, 1886-87
J. Crocker, 1888
Wm. M. Phares, 1889-90
Thos. P. Miller, 1891-92
David Rainey, 1893-94
J. R. Morgan, 1895-96
J. H. Sterling, 1897-98

C.F. CRUM
GROCER

Masonic Temple which was on the north west corner of Main and Walnut street. Photo courtesy of M&M Café at 119 West Main.

J. M. Rammel, 1899
F. M. Smith, 1900
Samuel Friedman, 1901
W. J. Compton, 1902-03
W. T. McLean, 1904
F. L. Bogle, 1905
Lon W. Smith, 1906-07
W. H. Stonebraker, 1908
Chas. J. Spooner, 1909
A.V. Bowden, 1910
C. F. Crum, 1911-12
Travis Redmon. 1913
R. E. Vernor, 1914
H. A. Morgan, 1915
Geo. S. Cooper, 1916
A.V. Bowden, 1917-18
S. D. Rainey, 1919-20
C. F. Crum, 1921
Geo. H. Stoutenborough, 1922
P. 0. Redmon, 1923
E. P. McLean, 1924
S. E. Roberts, 1925
Geo. H. Waller, 1926-27
W. W. Ward, 1928
C. F. Crum, Jr., 1929
Geo. H. Stoutenborough, 1930
R. R. Lyons, 1931
J. W. Johnson, 1932
Wm. H. Osborn, 1933
J. J. Johnson, 1934
W. W. Ward, 1935
D. H. Bowden, 1936
G. M. Morrow, 1937
A.V. Bowden, 1938-39-40
Wm. H. Osborn, 1941
D. H. Bowden, 1942
H. E. Eagler, 1943
H. E. Adams, 1944-45
Coy Jr. Agee, 1946
John J. Ward, 1947
Robt. D. Bolen, Jr., 1948
Geo. W. Groves, 1949
Earl Kammarmeyer, 1950
D. T. Hughes, 1951
Wayne Fyke, 1952
Leonard Braden, 1953
Elmer E. Gardner, 1954
James W. Leach, 1955
Coy Jr. Agee, 1956
Paul Carder, 1957
John P. Agee, 1958 & 59
David Foulke, 1960
David Amberg, 1961
Robert L. Austin, 1962
Paul Harris, 1963
Richard Tozer, 1964
James W. Agee, 1965
Selwyn Shaw, 1966
Charles R. Crabtree, 1967
David Foulke, 1968
James W. Agee, 1969
Garrell A. Leslie, 1970
Hilton R. Jannusch, 1971
Howard W. Rasor, 1972
Robert E. Stalker, 1973
H. Daniel Marsh, 1974
Larry E. Austin, 1975
Elmer E. Gardner, 1976
Harvey Holloway, 1977
Dewayne Mathews, 1978
Wallace Weerts, 1979
Paul Stephen Braden, 1980
Roger L. Wikoff, 1981
Ronald W. Clark, 1982 & 83
Roger L. Wikoff, 1984
James W. Leach, 1985
Dale Funk, 1986
R. Harold Johnson, 1987
Larry E. Austin, 1988
Lynn J. Huffman, 198
Larry Groves, 1990
Lynn J. Huffman, 1991
William W. Glen, 1992 & 93
Charles 0. Duncan, 1994
Sam Phipps, 1995
Tim Lucas, 1996
LaMance Thoms, 1997
Charles 0. Duncan, 1998
LaMance Thoms, 1999
James W. Leach, 2000
John W. Leach, 2001
Dan Harlow, 2002 & 03
Ted L. Agee, 2004

Membership during 2004: 102

QUEEN ESTHER REBEKAH LODGE NO. 193

Instituted on January 30, 1888 by W. F. Calhoun of Clinton, Illinois. There were 21 brothers and 23 sisters who formed the Charter Members. The first officers were: Noble Grand, W. A. Stiedly; Vice Grand, Mrs. Louisa Crocker; Secretary, Mrs. Fannie Miller; Treasurer, Mrs. Mary D. Kent.

The lodge was instituted the first of the year 1888 and when they made their report for the year ending December 1888 they had increased from 44 members to 94 members. It was closed by Mable Quayle in June, 1941.

Queen Esther Rebekah Lodge No. 98 was instituted on February 14, 1951 by Mildred Lebduska of Berwyn, Illinois. There were 3 brothers and 37 sisters who formed the Charter Members.
Noble Grand, Mildred Luckenbill: Vice Grand, Julia Swain; Secretary, Helen Bolen; Financial Secretary, Mildred Kammarmeyer; Treasurer, Helen Hinkle. The membership has increased to 60 members. Grace dark was appointed Special Deputy by Mildred Lebduska.

ROSE ACACIA CHAPTER
NO. 266 0. E. S. Maroa, Illinois
Second Friday, 7:30 P. M.

The 2004 Officers of Rose Acacia Chapter #266 O. E. S., Maroa, Illinois First row left to right: Deloris Ferrell, Ruth Groves, Virginia Lienhart, Hazel Agee Second row left to right: Roland Malone, Donna Malone, Virginia Brockman, T. Leon Jones, Ralph Peterson

ROSE ACACIA
CHAPTER
O. E. S.
MARCH 13, '94.
MAROA, ILL.

An award banquet recognition for the Rose Acacia Chapter OES March 13, 1894. Courtesy of Larry Nix.

Rose Acacia Chapter was organized March 13, 1894. Deputy Grand Officers acted as Officers. Myrtle Chapter No. 131, Clinton, Illinois, exemplified the floral work. Thirty-one members were initiated at this time and by the time Grand Chapter was held in Chicago in October, forty-one had been initiated, making a total of seventy-two charter members. We now have one hundred seventy-five members, living in twelve different states. Our main project is our two Eastern Star homes, one for the physically ill at Macon, Illinois, the other for our aged at Rockford, Illinois.

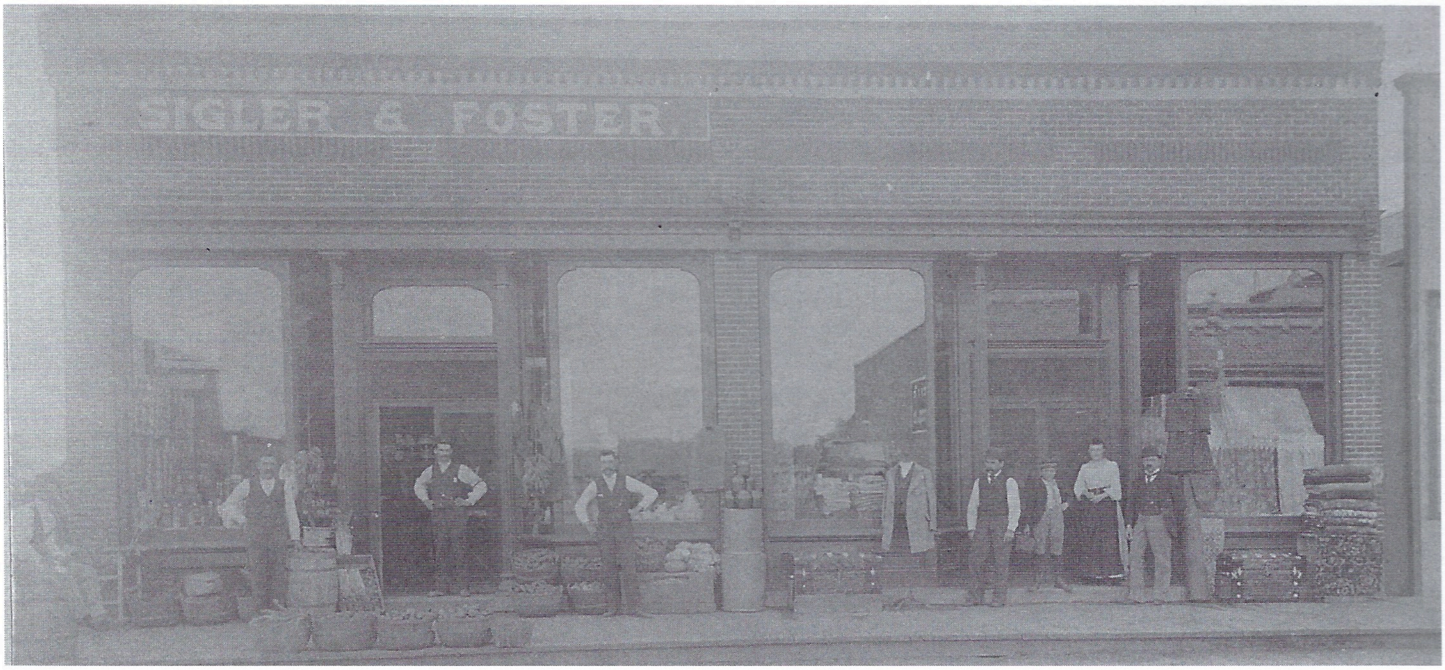
Now the chapter meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Lodge building at 120 North Walnut Street.

The Argenta Chapter #819 merged with Rose Acacia Chapter #266 on December 13, 1999. The Argenta Chapter had Chapters from Cisco, Bement, and Monticello when they merged with Rose Acacia. The Rockford home is not supported by the local chapter. The home in Macon is their project, and the Grand Chapter office is locted in Macon.

20 members live in 11 states
52 - 50 year members
77 - under 50 years
Total membership is 129

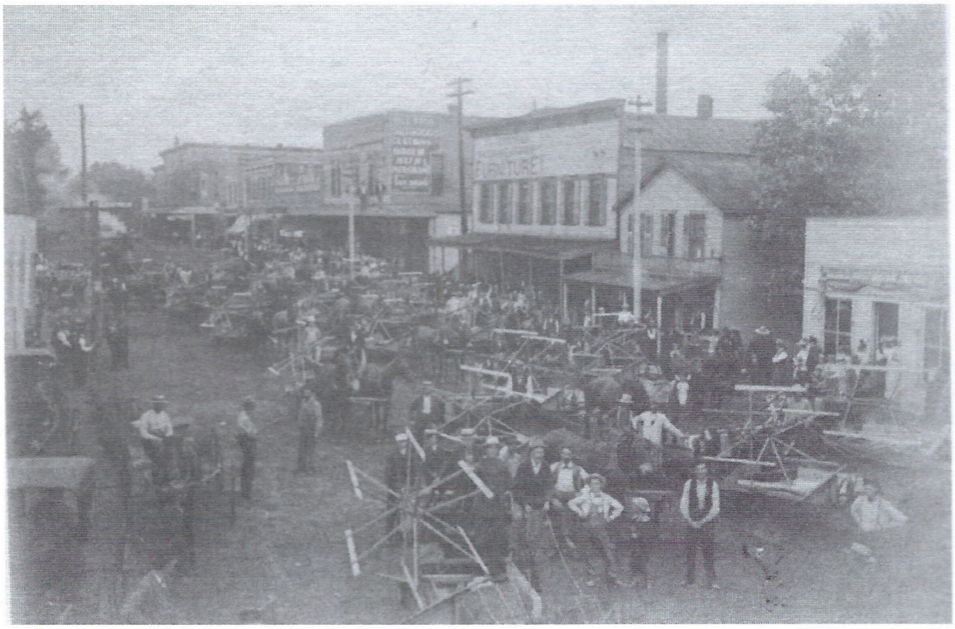
The following have served as Worthy Matrons and Patrons:

1894- Eliza Cooper
S. A. Friedman
1894-95 Luella Stafford
Dr. W. T. McLean
1895-96 Nannie Hager
Dr. W. T. McLean
1896-97 Margaret McLean
Dr. W. T. McLean
1897-99 Ada Shipley
Dr. Geo. Edmonson
1899-1900 Kate Phares
Dr. W. T. McLean
1900-01 Laura Mayall
James Sterling
1901-02 Clara Harris
J. P. Morgan
1902-03 Emma Parker
D. N. Gray
1903-04 Emma Sterling
D. N. Gray
1904-05 Rena Hoffman
D. N. Gray
1905-06 Rena Hoffman
Dr. C. M. Wood
1906-07 Anna Gray
D. N. Gray
1907-08 Ellen Smith
Marion Smith
1908-09 Lillian Miller
T. L. Bogle
1909-10 Hannah Parker
R. E. Vernor
1910-11 Clara Harris
R. E. Vernor
1911-12 Martha Ammann
R. E. Vernor
1912-13 Lillian Miller
R. E. Vernor
1913-14 Achsa Ames
Virgil Leach
1914-16 Mate Vernor
Dr. R. E. Vernor
1916-17 Ella Grady
Dr. R. E. Vernor
1917-19 Clara Harris
Dr. W. T. McLean
1919-20 Lucile Shipley
James Worsham
1920-21 Helen Waller
David Rainey
1921-22 Bernice Grady
David Rainey
1922-23 Bertha Funk
Herman Eagler
1923-24 Olive Craig
Walter Ward
1924-25 Bessie Ward
Walter Ward
1925-26 Alta Stoutenborough
Geo. Stoutenborough
1926-27 Esther Rainey
Walter Ward
1927-28 Mary Lyons
Roy Stoutenborough
28-29 Fleta Marlow
Geo. Stoutenborough
29-30 Iona Stoutenborough
Geo. Stoutenborough
30-31 Leota Ward
Walter Ward
31-32 Alverta Potter
M. E. Huston
32-33 Zelva Caplinger
Leonard Caplinger
33-34 Ethel Longsdorff
J. E. Longsdorff
34-35 Lillie Ward
J. E. Longsdorff
35-36 Flora Caplinger
Leonard Caplinger
36-37 Betty Hippard
Geo. Waller
37-38 Dottie Osborn
Leonard Caplinger
38-39 Dorothy Bean
Edwin Bean
39-40 Helen Bolen
Leonard Caplinger
40-41 Ruth Bunner
Herbert Adams
41-42 Lucille Eagler
Herman Eagler
42-43 Marthalouise Stoutenborough
Leonard Caplinger
43-44 Florence Groves
Milton Batchelder
44-45 Lois Schenck
Geo. Stoutenborough
45-46 Lucille Batchelder
Milton Batchelder
46-47 Mildred Kammarmeyer
Coy Agee
47-48 Ruth Warner
John Admire
48-49 Ruth Ferrill
Ray Ferrill
49-50 Leilah Kammarmeyer
Earl Kammarmeyer
50-51 Virginia Lienhart



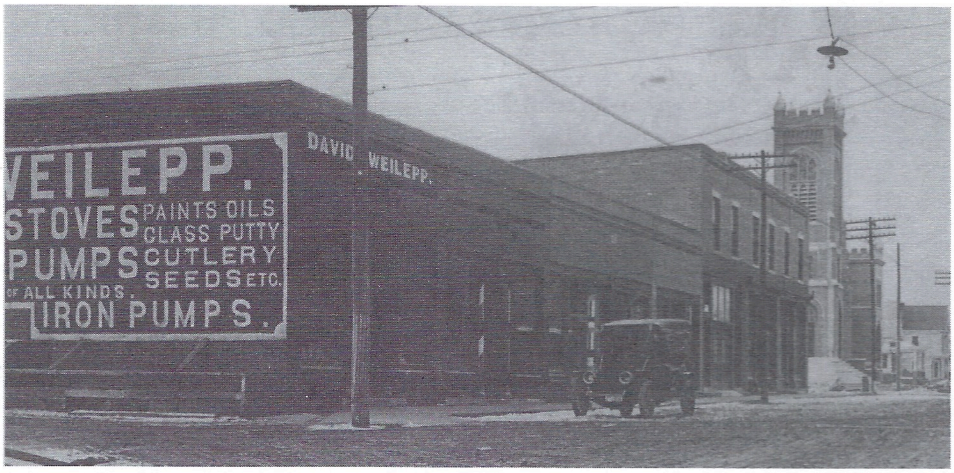
Downtown Maroa, early 1900's. From Left to Right: Ruben Sigler, Mr. Foster, Tommy Grady, not known, Henry Wagoner, Jr, Ida Schenck, H. Waggoner, Sr. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.

Harold Lienhart
51-52 Mary Leach
James Leach
52-53 Evelyn Hoffman
Edward Hoffman
53-54 Elsie Mouser
Homer Mouser
1955-Edna Fyke
Wayne Fyke
1956-Mary Leach
James Leach
1957-Leilah Kammameyer
Earl Kammameyer
1958-Hazel Agee
Lyle Agee
1959-Betty Agee
John Agee
1960-Hazel Agee
Lyle Agee
1961-Leilah Kammameyer
Earl Kammameyer
1962-Margaret Leach
Virgil Leach
1963-Margaret Leach
Virgil Leach
1964-Leilah Kammameyer
Earl Kammameyer
1965-Mary Dealey
Lyle Agee
1966-Hazel Agee
Lyle Agee
1967-Leilah Kammameyer
Earl Kammemeyer



Main street in Maroa during the Farm implement show. The picture is taken looking west from approximately the 300 block of East Main Street.

1968-Mary Leach
Lyle Agee
1969-Mildred Fouike
Edward Fouike
1970-Hazel Agee
Lyle Agee
1971-Mary Dealey
0. K. Dealey
1972-Virginia Lienhart
Harold Lienhart
1973-Hazel Agee
Lyle Agee
1974-Hazel Agee
Lyle Agee
1975-Julia Austin
Larry Austin
1976-Hazel Agee
Lylie Agee
1977-Hazel Agee
Lyle Agee
1978-Mary Leach
James Leach
1979-Hazel Agee
Lyle Agee



Main Street Maroa looking west from Hickory Street. The south side of the street. Cir 1915. Photo courtesy of M&M Café

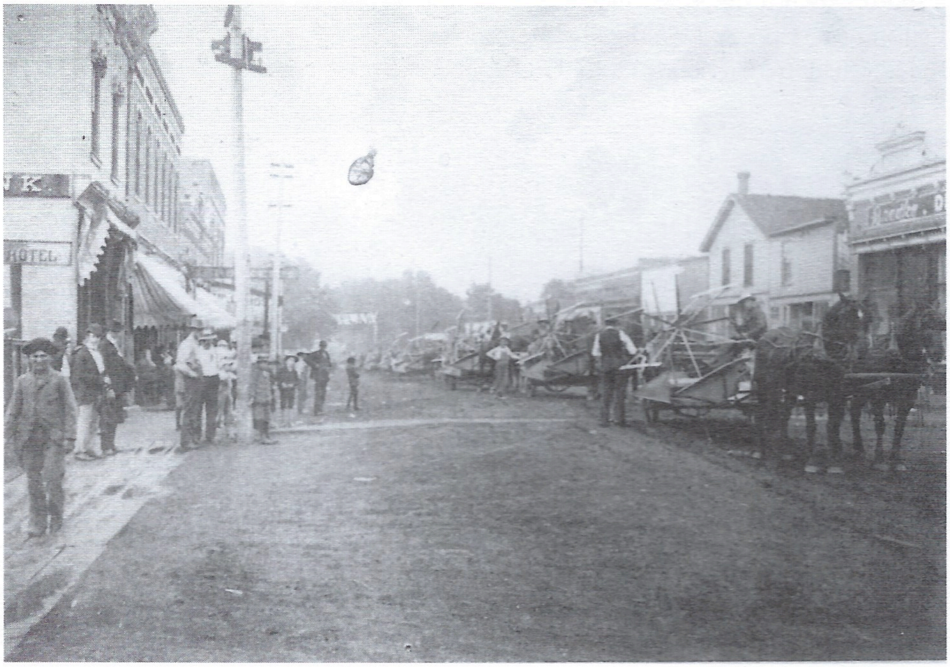


Photo of Main street during farm progress show, 1900. Note the Light Running Plano Farm Implements. photo courtesy of M&M Café at 119 West Main

1980-Hazel Agee
1981-Hazel Agee
1982-Gwen Clifton
1983-Gwen Clifton
1984-Mary Dealey
Larry Austin
1985-Mary Dealey
Larry Austin
1986-Julia Austin
Larry Austin
1987-Julia Austin
Larry Austin
1988-Gwen Clifton
Larry Austin
1989-Gwen Clifton
Larry Austin
1990-Julia Austin
Larry Austin
1991-Jane Cooper
Lyle Agee
1992-Lois Jones & Jane Cooper
T. Leon Jones
1993-Gwen Clifton
Delbert Clifton
1994-Jane Cooper
T. Leon Jones
1995-Jane Cooper
T. Leon Jones
1996-Jane Cooper
T. Leon Jones
1997-Hazel Ishmael
T. Leon Jones
1998-Hazel Ishmael
T. Leon Jones
1999-Virginia Brockman
T. Leon Jones
2000-Virginia Brockman
T. Leon Jones
2001-Virginia Brockman
T. Leon Jones
2002-Virginia Brockman
T. Leon Jones
2003-Virginia Brockman
T. Leon Jones
2004-Virginia Brockman
T. Leon Jones

Secretaries
1955-Ruth Ferrill
1956-Ruth Ferrill
1957-83-Mildred Kammanneyer-26 years
1984-Hazel Agee—20 years

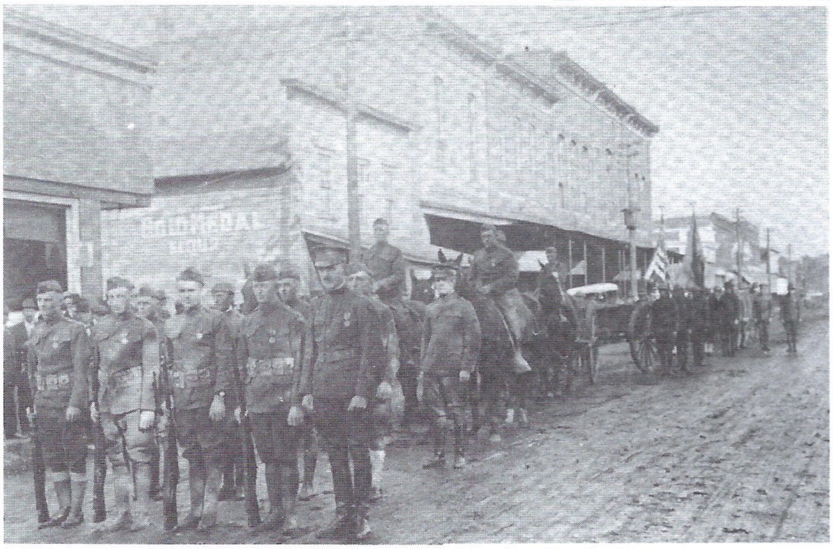
We have no living Charter members, but there are five who have been members more than fifty years.

Lillian Miller-58 years
Nellie Huston-56 years
Vada Ettlinger-55 years
Rena Hoffman-52 years
Emma Morgan-52 years
We have had only 13 secretaries:
Marie Hill-2 years
Roberta Rainey-3 years
Luella Stafford-9 years
Achsa Ames-4 years
Ellen Smith-5 years
Mate Vernor-11 years
Laura Schroeder-6 years
Iona Stoutenborough-3 years
Lillie Ward-5 years
Lucille Eagler-2 years
Ethel Longsdorff-4 years
Ruth Ferrill-5 years

WEILEPP-CRAMER UNIT 660, AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Weilepp-Cramer Unit 660, American Legion Auxiliary was organized February 22,1934 with 15 members. Mrs. Charles (Lena Duncan) Creekmur was the first President, having belonged to the Decatur unit with her mother, before coming to Maroa. Her brothers and husband, Charlie, were veterans of W.W. I. Her daughter, Charlotte became a member of the Maroa unit when she was 10 years old.

The picture of the Weilepp-Cramer Unit 660 American Legion Auxiliary Maroa, Illinois during 1958-1959. Mae Miller, Louise Archey, Evelyn Morgan, Mary Long-President, Joanna Stuller, Nira Stormer, Ronnie Braden, Anna Rainey, Lena Creekmur, Roberta Ruble, Dorothy Braden, Edna Garvin, Lucille Eagler, Sybil Cooper, Charlotte Underwood, Mrs M?/ Methodist Minster wife.



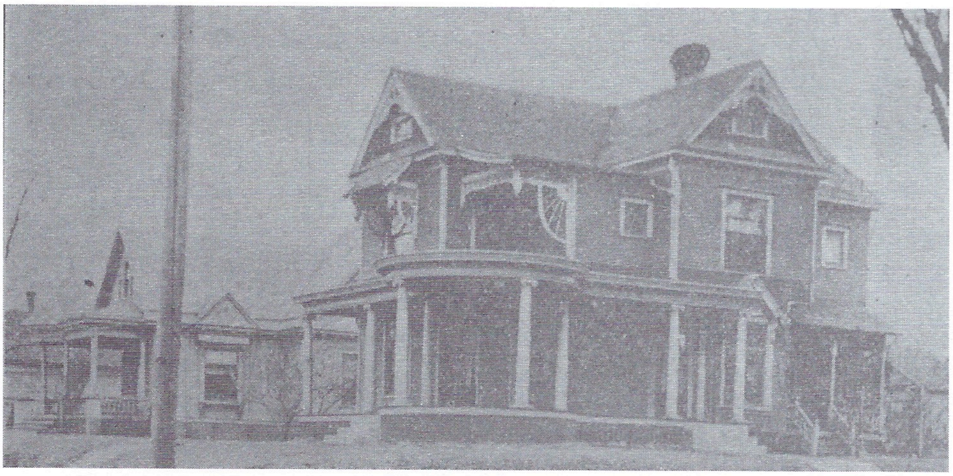
Military funeral of Stanley Cramer who died during World War I. He is one of the young men whose name is given to the Weilepp-Cramer American Legion post No. 660

Past Presidents of Unit 660 include, Lena Creekmur, Dottie Osborn, Edna Margenthaler, Gertrude Stonebaker, Bessie Vaughn Camp, Nira Stormer, Mable Kinkaid, Nigel Marlatt, Agnes Osborn, Helen Brandon, Joanna Stuller, Harriet Pulliam, Jane Cooper, Dorothy Braden, Roberta Ruble, Charlotte Creekmur Earles Underwood, Delia Hays, Esther Rainey, Mary Dash, Mary Long, Pauline St. John, Hazel Ishmael, Juanite Plummer, Evelyn Beard, Marie Anderson, Edith Bolen, Mary Zomhro, Willie Garren, Gwen Clifton. Today the President is Karen Halicki.

In 1985 there were 55 members. At present the membership is 35. Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at the Maroa Public Library at 1pm. As in the past Memorial Day week-end is their Poppy Days, which help to raise money to help veterans, Child Welfare, Rehabilitation, Community Service and Americanism.

World War I Soldiers in 1916.

Post 660 of the Legion was named for Harry Weilepp and Stanley Cramer, who were W.W.I. soldiers. The Post was organized January 2,1922. The first commander was Phillip Redman.



Residences of David Weilepp and Mrs. Sarah Persinger South Wood street. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.

MAROA TIDBIT

Warner 0. Allsup (1858-1930), a brother of Miner, was born in Texas Township. He also was a farmer but retired and moved to Maroa in 1898. He married Belle Davis and the following children were born to them: Tufolia (Butler), Fred, Orville, Zelva (Caplinger), and Fern (Smart).

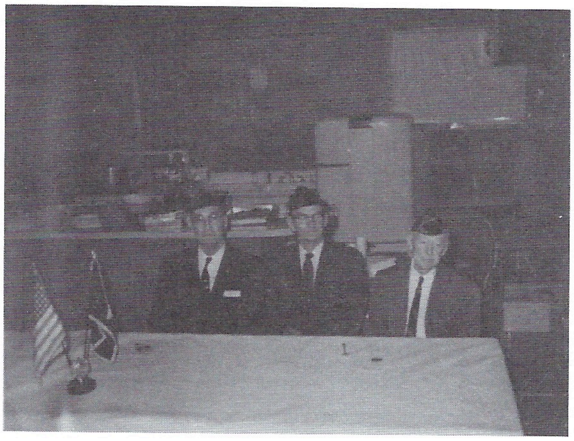
MAROA TIDBIT

Miner R. Allsup was born in DeWitt County, Illinois in 1861. He spent most of his life in Maroa. He was a farmer and grain dealer and owned one of the largest grain elevators in Central Illinois at the time of his death in 1919. He was vice-president of the Citizens' Bank.

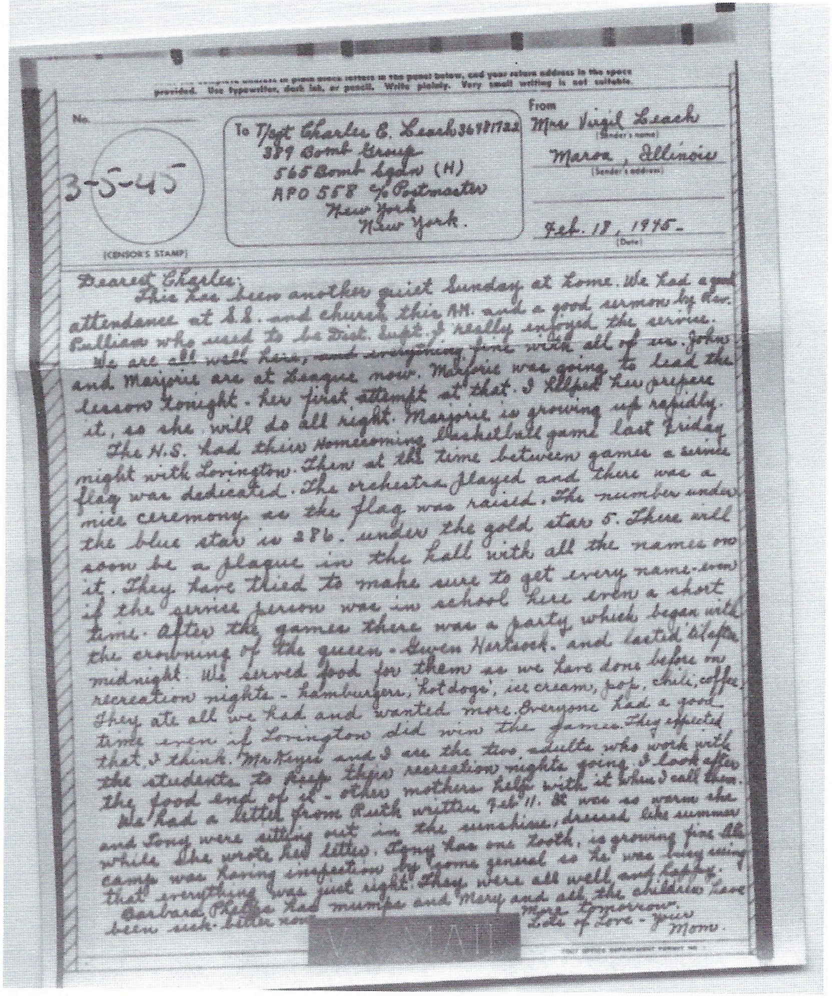
Stanley Cramer funeral procession at Maroa Grade School. Funeral held at the school grounds. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.

WELCOME VETERANS
NO PROFANITY PLEASE

Preparations for the Veteran dinner. Note the Welcome Veterans sign, and the 'No profanity please' sign.



Veterans of World War I Weilepp-Cramer Post 660, Maroa, American Legion Left to right: Elbert Kaufman, Homer Clough, Charlie Creekmur



complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No.

3-5-45

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To T/Sgt Charles E. Leach 36781722
389 Bomb Group
565 Bomb Sqdn (H)
APO 558 c/o Postmaster
New York
New York.

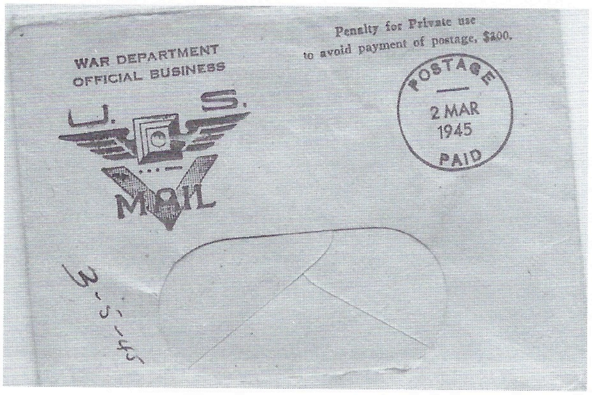
From
Mrs Virgil Leach
(Sender's name)
Maroa, Illinois
(Sender's address)

Feb. 18, 1945.
(Date)

Dearest Charles:
This has been another quiet Sunday at home. We had a good
attendance at S.S. and church this AM. and a good sermon by Rev.
Pulliam who used to be Dist. Supt. I really enjoyed the service.
We are all well here, and everything fine with all of us. John
and Marjorie are at League now. Marjorie was going to lead the
lesson tonight - her first attempt at that. I helped her prepare
it, so she will do all right. Marjorie is growing up rapidly.
The H.S. had their Homecoming basketball game last Friday
night with Lovington. Then at the time between games a service
flag was dedicated. The orchestra played and there was a
nice ceremony as the flag was raised. The number under
the blue star is 286. under the gold star 5. There will
soon be a plaque in the hall with all the names on
it. They have tried to make sure to get every name - even
if the service person was in school here even a short
time. After the games there was a party which began with
the crowning of the queen - Gwen Hartsock. and lasted 'til after
midnight. We served food for them as we have done before on
recreation nights - hamburgers, 'hot dogs', ice cream, pop, chili, coffee.
They ate all we had and wanted more. Everyone had a good
time even if Lovington did win the games. They expected
that, I think. Mr. Keyes and I are the two adults who work with
the students to keep their recreation nights going. I look after
the food end of it - other mothers help with it when I call them.
We had a letter from Ruth written Feb 11. It was so warm she
and Tony were sitting out in the sunshine, dressed like summer
while she wrote her letter. Tony has one tooth, is growing fine. The
camp was having inspection by some general so he was busy seeing
that everything was just right. They were all well and happy.
Barbara Phelps had mumps and Mary and all the children have
been sick - better now
More tomorrow.
Lots of Love - your
Mom.

V MAIL

Long before e-mail, there was V Mail. During World War II Charlie E Leach received this "V Mail" from his mom. It was postmarked March 2, 1945. The Armed services, to cut down on size of paper sent, would take a letter and reduce it's size before sending. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.



picture of long table of diners enjoying a thank you veteran's dinner.

MAROA TIDBITS

My favorite things about Maroa are the café, the annual Fire-fighters Pancake Breakfast.

LaMance Thoms Age: 38

What I like about living in Maroa: My old house built in 1910 (300 South Walnut Street)

LaMance Thoms Age: 38

MAROA YOUTH LEAGUE

Maroa Youth League was incorporated in 1981. The 2004 season we had 165 players on 11 teams. We are increasing in numbers every year!

We supported a 10U girls travel team this summer. We support a joint 5th & 6th grade boys basketball program with Forsyth Youth League. We hosted two tournaments in 2004, Mustang boys and Junior girls. Both tournaments were a great success and we sold several of our custom tournament t-shirts.

The photographers - Game Time Photography have a website and posted several of our pictures.

The executive board through September was Donna Mauzey, president and Candi Mosley, treasurer. At the September meeting our new executive board was elected since I "retired" as both my boys will be in high school next year. The executive board voted in was David Lane, president, Skip Weikle, vice president, Susan Dunham, secretary and Candi Mosley remained treasurer. The current board members, along with the exececutive board, are Brenda Livingood, Cindy Barnes, Roger Mosley, Becky King, Glen Ollesch and Bob Sarver.

Many community businesses and organizations sponsor the Youth league. They include: Top Flight Grain, Play It Again, McDonald's Clinton, McDonald's Forsyth, Baum Chevrolet, Corrosion Products, Wells Construction, Clinton Chiropractic, Young Builders, Marsh Farms, Forsyth Imaging Center, Freedom Oil, Locomp, Mendy's Trendy Hair Shop, Dr. Tim Miller, Illini Supply, Firehouse No. 2 Rest. & Pub, Braden Trucking, Masonic Lodge, Texas Roadhouse, Jarvis, M & M, Mashburn, Stericycle, DQ - Randy Martin, Hughes Plumbing, Maroa Lumber Company, Speed Lube, City of Maroa, Rat's Hole Place, Ray Ramirez DVM.

Their budget for 2004 include:

MAROA YOUTH LEAGUE

Income 2004

Sponsors	$6,000.00	(20 @ $300.00 ea.)
Ball Sign Ups	$6,000.00	(30 @ $35.00/110 @ $45)
Concession	$12,000.00	(Incl. 4th of July)
Hog-A-Thon	$0.00	
Inning-A-Thon	$0.00	
5K Race	$800.00	
Tournaments	$250.00	
Total Income	**$25,050.00**	

Expenses 2004

G & M Disposal	$126.00
Verizon North	$200.00
Illinois Power	$4,000.00
Total for Utilities	**$4,326.00**
Ballpark Lease	$1.00
Insurance	$1,200.00
Uniforms	$2,700.00
Equipment	$1,200.00
Diamond Work	$2,500.00
Port-A-Pot	$200.00
Tri-County Registration	$20.00
Country Girls Registration	$225.00
Tournament Fees	$500.00
Tractor Repairs	$500.00
Trophies	$550.00
Repairs	$1,558.00
Total for Ball Program	**$11,154.00**
Concession Stand	$6,400.00
Concession Repairs	$250.00
Total Concession	**$6,650.00**
Postage	$225.00
Total Postage	**$225.00**
Sales Tax	$900.00
Annual Report	$20.00
Professional Fees	$175.00
Total Taxes/Prof/Pub Fees	**$1,095.00**
5K Race	$600.00
Total Race	**$600.00**
Miscellaneous	**$1,000.00**
Total Expense	**$25,050.00**

MAROA TIDBITS

Amos Dill came to Maroa from Butler County, Ohio, in 1855 at the age of 19. He came with his brother, Isaac, and made his home with him for several years on a farm west of town. In 1860, Amos married Mary Ann Cox and they lived southwest of town until they moved to town in 1908. Mr. Dill died a few months later. The Dills had four little children, all of whom died in an epidemic. Later another daughter, Ollie, was born to them. She married Walker Smith and spent her entire life in this community.

ALUMNI BANQUET

In 2005 the Maroa Forsyth Alumni banquet will hold it's 62nd annual banquet. The banquet is held the Saturday evening before Easter. A current host, Rhonda Braden noted that her grandmother, Dorothy Braden, and Charlette Underwood both mentioned that they know there were alumni dinners sponsored by the PTA in the mid 1930's. We also found a program from the Maroa Opera house that mentioned an alumni banquet being held at the turn of the century.

The minutes from the last banquet from April 10, 2004 are included as they have many interesting items:

The Maroa-Forsyth Alumni Banquet was held at the Holiday Inn Express on April 10, 2004 with 182 attending the dinner, and 10 attending the dance only. For a total attendance of 192.

The evening started at 6:00 p.m. with a social hour. A cash bar was set up for friends to visit and reminisce. As the Alumni members entered the banquet room, they were registered and given a name tag. Tickets were sold for a 50/50 raffle, and several donated items. Tickets were sold for $1 or 6 for $5. The Raffle Items were displayed at the front of the Banquet Hall. The Banquet Committee had a table set up of several pictures, yearbooks, newspaper clippings, and Maroa Forsyth High School Memorabilia that was a big hit during the Banquet. The Maroa Sesquicentennial Committee had a table set up of items marking Maroa's 150th Celebration that is going to be held in September of 2004.

At 7:10, Bill Barnett welcomed all Alumni and guests. He asked that everyone find places to be seated. Bill then let everyone know that Dinner would be served in about 15 Minutes. At 7:20 Bill introduced Kevin Koslofski to do Grace. The sit down dinner was served by the staff of the Holiday Inn Express. The meal consisted of garden salad, rolls. Chicken Cordon Bleu, parsley mashed potatoes, garden vegetables, New York Style Cheesecake, and iced tea or coffee.

After Dinner Bill Barnett read the minutes for the 2003 Banquet. The Treasurer's report was given with an incomplete balance. (Due to the 50/50 & Raffle not being complete) Teresa Hall made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded and excepted. (The ending balance was $ 999.51)

Bill Barnett recognized all Veteran's and had them stand as he called there branch of service. While Bill recognized each Branch of Service he had the song "American Soldier" by Toby Keith played. After each Branch was recognized Bill asked that everyone just take a moment to listen to the song and remember to Thank your Veterans.

Roll-call of classes began with Bill Barnett calling out the years. Virginia (Hockaday) Brookes class of 1934 was recognized for her 70th Reunion. The class of 1944 was celebrating there 60th and they had 11 people present, and Bill Wikoff recognized the 8 students in there class that were called to war before graduating. The class of'44 had a plaque made for these men and it will be displayed in the new High School. Roll call continued and the class of '49 was recognized for there 55th and they had 4 in attendance. 1954 was recognized for there 50th Reunion. They had 24 Attending including 4 Teachers. The class of '59 was recognized for there 45th, they had 16 in attendance. The class of'64 was celebrating there 40th with 3 Alumni attending. '74 was celebrating there 30th with 9 attending. '89 was recognized for there 15th with 1 attending. The class of 2004 had 1 Alumni present.

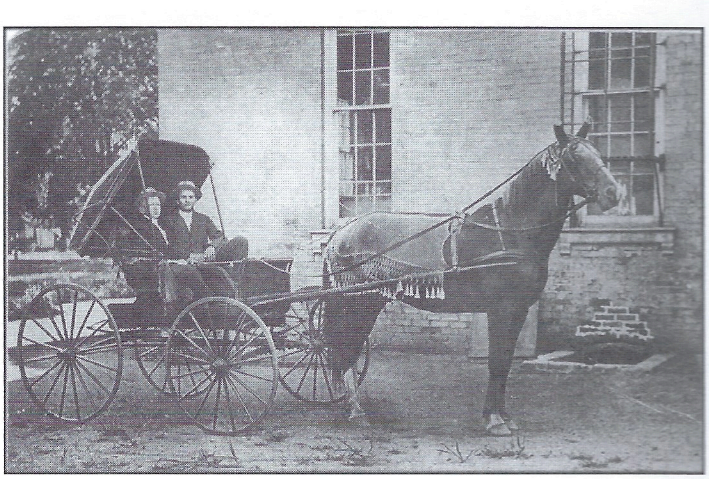
Boxes of Candy where given to the person attending the most banquets -Charlotte (Creekmur) Underwood (60 Years). The person traveling the greatest distance

The Oldest graduate which was Fredonna (Brenning) Faulkner the Class of 1933.

Bill welcomed Kevin Koslofski to the stage to talk about the M-Club Meeting. Kevin told about the M-Club's attendance from the night before and welcomed all Alumni to join them for next years meeting and golf outing.

The 50/50 ticket was drawn by the Rodney (The DJ) and won by Joyce (Chalcraft) Goeke. She kept $48.00 and donated $100 Back to the Banquet. Then all of the donated items where raffled. Items raffled included:

Clock from Maroa Forsyth Community Bank, 2 Easter Baskets donated by Bill Barnett & Rhonda Braden. 1 glass Easter Bunny donated by The Home Interiors Company, 1 Ice Tea Pitcher donated by Ron & Terri Braden, 2 Glass Baskets with Hair Products donated by Sharon's Style Boutique, 1 Illini Pullover & 1 Illini T-shirt donated by Rick King Racing, 1 Autographed Tony Stewart Picture & Book donated by Rick King Racing, 2 Bunting Flags donated by Maroa Library, 1 Menard's Shirt & Glass Mug w/



Roy Daggett and Dewey Bunner.
Taken in front of the Old Grade School in early 1916.

Jelly Beans donated by Menard's, Casino Queen Blanket & Coffee Mug donated by Casino Queen,
2 free lunch or dinner Cheddar's Gift Certificates, 1 $10 O'Charley's Gift Certificate, 1 $50 Cash from City Of Maroa, 1 Basket from Earthmover Credit Union, 2 Manicure's from Touch Of Class Salon, 1 Basket with Margarita Set, 4 St. Louis Cardinal Tickets

To close the meeting Bill Barnett announced that the Holiday Inn will have a new policy and the Banquet has to be paid in full 3 days before the event. He asked that if you are planning on attending the 2005 Banquet we ask that you make reservations in advance. Bill then thanked everyone for coming and wanted to extend thanks from the Host families of Rhonda Braden, Christy Hicks, and himself for everyone attending. He then let everyone know again that there where pictures in the back to look through and to have a good time dancing and reminiscing.
The evening ended around 11:30 p.m. This years host families where very happy that everyone had a good time.
**Host Families: Bill Barnett, Rhonda Braden, Christy (Stringer) Hicks **
Charge for the Banquet $20.00 per person for Dinner & Dance. Charge for Dance Only $ 5.00 per person 50/50 drawing was $1.00 per ticket or 6 for $5.00

The M-Club is also meeting on Good Friday. The M club is for all alumni who have played in a sport at the Maroa Forsyth High School.

ST. JUDE BIKE-A-THON

Maroa has hosted St. Jude Bike-a Thons off and on over the past 25 years. In 1992 the Maroa FFA Chapter assisted Jerry and Jill Kuykendall in sponsoring the Bike-a-Thon. This was the start of a yearly spring Bike-a-Thon that has become a tradition in Maroa and surrounding towns. Local organizations and business sponsors have assisted with manpower, monetary donations, etc. Families, neighbors, and friends have donated generously throughout the years to this worthwhile cause. The event would not have been as successful without a lot of hard work from the riders and walkers who have physically done the work to earn those dollars for St. Jude. Besides helping the current patients at St. Jude, the hospital shares its research information on curing catastrophic childhood illnesses all over the country and the world. Over the past 12 years, our bike rides have raised over $80,000.00. Thanks for your participation to make this endeavor a success!!

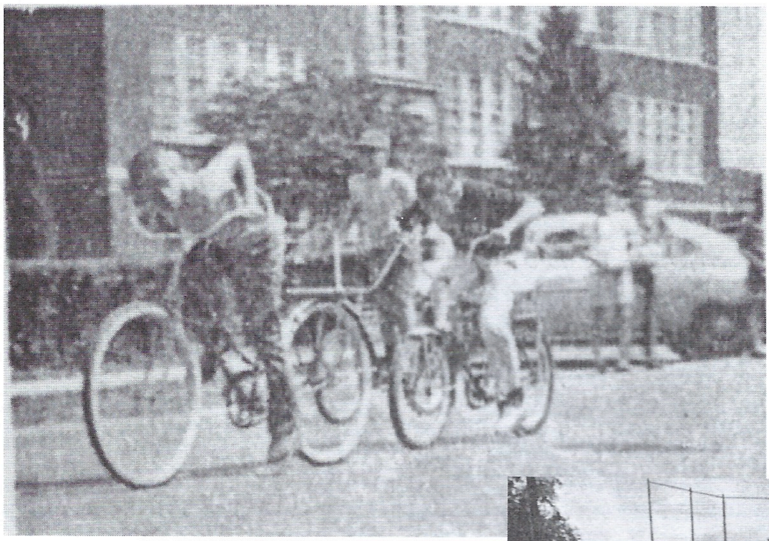
The 2004 Bike A Thon winner, Cole Hoffman proudly stands next to his bike, with WalMart Personnel Director Lisa Meador.

The 12th annual St. Jude Bike-a-Thon held in Maroa was again a very successful event. $9,600 was raised for the Children's Research Hospital. More than 40 bike and trike participants enjoyed good weather and had a good time raising money for a good cause. The event was held on Saturday, April 24, 2004.

Coordinators of the fundraiser, Jerry and Jill Kuykendall would like to thank several groups and individuals for their help. The Patchwork Home Extension Unit for taking care of drinks and cookies as they have every year. The Maroa Lions Club members for controlling traffic at the intersections. Maroa Township Road Commissioner Shawn Pittman for furnishing signs and barricades. Thanks to Julie Crabtree and Sharon Head for taking care of registration. A thank you to several mothers for supervising the Trike-a-Thon and Topflight Grain Elevator for allowing us to use their office for registering and a place to organize and start the ride.

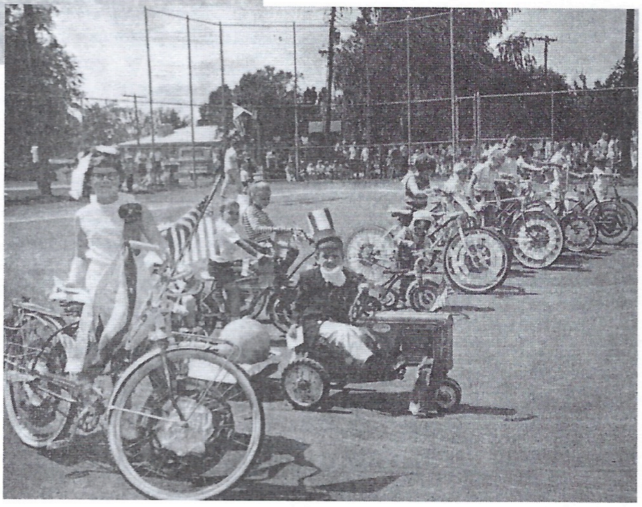
Everyone that raised $35 received a St. Jude T-shirt. Those that raised $75.00 received a gym bag also. The top pledge earners in the student division received the following prizes:
Bicycle from WalMart -Cole Hoffman;
Boom box from St. Jude -Maggie Tucker;
Cash prizes went to Bryson Young, John Sandfrey, Madysen Sharp, Evan Clapp, Heather Breazeale, Keith Merriman, Andrew Hastings, and Samantha Bennett.

The top pledge earner in the Adult Division was Leroy Wilson. The entire community deserves a big THANK YOU. Several adult participants turned in hundred's of dollars each and the top four student riders brought in more than $300.00 each. It is an honor to coordinate an event such as this in such a generous community.

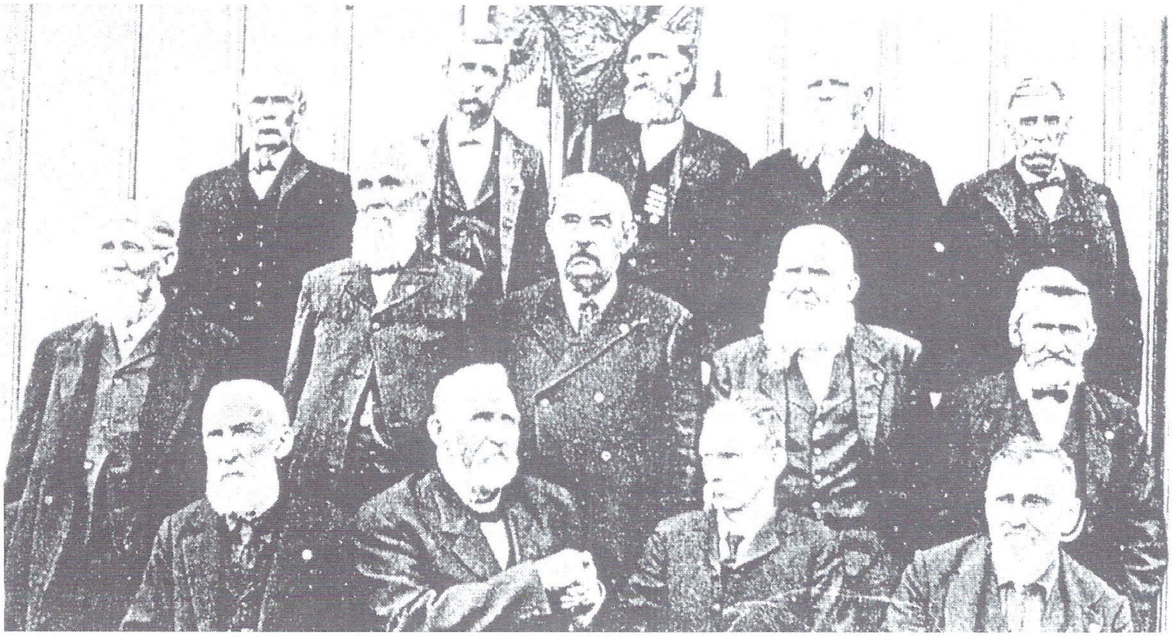


From the Prairie Post
July 6, 1967

We would also like to thank the Business sponsors that added $2500.00 to the total. They include: Hoffman Farms and Trucking; Maroa Lions Club; Maroa Woman's Club; Huffman Cabinet Company; Calvert Funeral Home, Dr. Tim Miller; Maroa Pub; Maroa-Forsyth Community Bank; Spacemark; Topflight Grain; Four Winds RV; Mashburn Well Drilling; Allison & Associates, CPA; Dr. Chad M. Burmeister DMD; KB Welding & Fabricating; Maroa Lumber Company; Brown, Hawkins, Basola & Mattingley, Lawyers; Stoutenborough Insurance Agency; Heartland AG; Country Lace & Wood Creations; LOCOMP; Fine Things; Carl Christensen Construction; Sweethearts; M&M Cafe.



From the Prairie Post - July 6, 1967
Chuckie Hill and Bonnie Hill placed first and second in the Beta Sigma Phi Children's Decorated Vehicles. Janet Kelley, to the left of Chuckie, was third. Bonnie is hidden by the flag.



G. A. R. Lingle Post picture taken in 1900 Back row Left to Right: F. K. Bohrer, Governor Conover, Caleb Westbrook, E. G. Covault, J. M. Walker. Middle row: W. W. Nesbitt, Captain T. H. Barr, T. N. Leavitt, J. J. Leach, A. W. Kinnamon. Front Row: Captain C. F. Emery, H. M. Morris, John Kempshall (Confederate), J. M. Currie.

THE MAROA CHRISTMAS TOUR OF HOMES

The Maroa Christmas tour of Homes started as a fund-raiser by the Historical Society in 1982. Since then, the tour has been used by different groups to celebrate Christmas, and to invite people to see the festive decorations in each home. Currently, the Maroa Festival Committee puts on the tour and it is enjoyed by 300-400 people each year.

Some of the homes that were on past tours are:

Maroa Festival Tour of Homes 2003 Dec 14
Jerry & Marsha Huffman 123 W Monroe
Mark & Cyndi Walker 414 E Kennedy
Ray & Kelly Ramirez 124 S Walnut
LeRoy & Ruth Mills 207 W Jackson
David & Elaine Hughes 16 W Main
John Deere Museum-George & Diane Campbell -Main & Walnut
Maroa Public Library 305 E Garfield -Tour of Trees and Cookie Walk
Maroa Christian Church 430 E Main -
Caroling,Tea,crafts,Bethlehem Walk
Maroa Bible Church 312 W Jackson - refreshments
Lions Club - Chili and Soup Dinner @ M&M
Parade with Santa @ 7pm

Maroa Festival Tour of Homes 2002 Dec 8
Fran and Toni Thoms 115 S Grissom
Ron and Terri Braden 3326 E School Rd
Tim and Cindy Sinkosky 500 N Oak
Don and Marsha Cuttill 307 Sycamore
Brian and Kim Alexander 129 W Jackson
Bill and Brenda Turner 427 W Washington
Jim & Kathleen Wells 202 E Garfield
Maroa Christian Church 403 E Main refreshments
Maroa Public Library - Trees and cookie walk
John Deere Museum - Main & Walnut
Lions Club - Chili and Soup Dinner @ M&M
Parade with Santa 7pm

Maroa Festival Tour of Homes 2001 Dec 9
Ryan and Chris Wolfe 230 N Pine
Steve and Pat Jones 3 miles south on 51
Ray and Kelly Ramirez 124 S Walnut
Jim and Judy Ooton S Sawyer Rd
Rich and Andrea Shaffer 9710 N Route 51
Maroa Christian Church - walk through
Maroa Methodist Church- refreshements Washington & Walnut
John Deere Museum -Main & Walnut
Lions Club -Soup Dinner @ M&M
Parade with Santa 7pm

Maroa Youth League Tour of Homes 2000 Dec 10
Maroa Public Library 305 E Garfield cookie walk
Lowell and Joyce Griffith 219 S Walnut
Rod and Annaleisia Hilbum 300 W Main
Dennis and Marcee Place 315 W Washington
Eric and Lori Kruzan 309 N Linden
Maroa Bible Church 312 W Jackson -refreshments

Maroa Youth League Tour of Homes 1999 Dec 12
Mike and Debbie Cook North of Maroa, (in county)
Tim and Donna Mauzey 529 E Washington
Dennis and Sandy Powers 125 S Walnut
Bill and Barbara Holley 219 N Maple
Jim and Jo Mattingly W Hampshire Rd (in county)
Maroa Christian Church 403 E Main - refreshments

Maroa Youth League Tour of Homes 1998 Dec 13
Methodist Church-refreshments Washington & Walnut
Dean & Sheri Hoffinan 229 W Washington
Bruce & Maria Johnson 239 N Wood
Gary Bohner 303 W Washington
Frank & Lori Starbody 200 N Pine
Bill & Anne DeMark 29 W Main
Richard & Mary Jo Lazell 224 W Washington

Tour of Homes 1997 -could not find anything

Freedom Festival Tour of Homes 1996
Ray & Kelly Ramirez 124 S Walnut
Frank & Tonia Thoms 115 S Grissom
John & Sue Rogers RR2
Bob & Dorothy Sprague RR2
William & Georgene Voorhees RR2

Freedom Festival Tour of Homes 1995 Dec 3 3-7
Dennis &, Sandy Powers 125 S Walnut
Don & Carolyn Sennhenn 232 S Walnut
Richard & Mary Jo Lazell 224 W Washington
R.O. & Fannie Crouch 215 W Washington
Bruce & Maria Johnson 239 N Wood Maroa
Methodist Church Washington & Walnut

Freedom Festival Tour of Homes 1994 Dec 4
Rick & Debbie Patterson 325 S Walnut
Mance & Katrina Thorns 300 S Walnut
Frank & Lori Starbody 200 N Pine
Dick & Sarah Pinney 211 N Olive
Jim & Tami Stoutenborough Washington & Rt 51 south side
Maroa Christian Church 403 E Main

Freedom Festival Tour of Homes 1993 Dec 5
Bill & Brenda Turner 427 W Washington
John & Margie Cook S Cedar
Darrell & Pat Weiike 220 N Pine
JeanPense 312 W Lincoln

Freedom Festival Tour of Homes 1992 Dec 6
Bruce & Norma Miles N Wood
David & Kim Moore Washington & Wood (SE)
Denny & Marcie Place 315 W Washington
Bill & Barb Holley 219 N Maple

Maroa Historical Society's Tour of Homes 1982 Oct 3
Lowell & Joyce Griffith 219 S Walnut
Joe & Dian Miller 200 N Pine
Bruce & Norma Miles 231 N Wood
Mike & Sharon Speasi 315 W Washington
John & Margie Cook south edge of town beyond high school field

Then
Sherman B. Buck
APPLIANCE SALES and SERVICE
PHONE 323
501 WEST SIDE SQUARE
CLINTON, ILLINOIS
Complete Line of Appliances, Wiring, Supplies and Equipment
Centennial ad published in 1954

Now
Buck
Appliance & Cabinet Co.
503 W. Side Sq.
Clinton, Il. 61727
217-935-3029 Ph.
217-935-4493 Fax
E-Mail buckappli@yahoo.com
Since 1942

KBD Kitchen & Bath by Design
Shawn Milton
Kitchen & Bath
Designer
503W. Side Sq.
Clinton, Il. 61727
Ph. 217-935-3029
Fax 217-935-4493

HOMEMAKERS EXTENSION ASSOCIATION

The Patchwork Unit of the Macon County Homemakers Extension Association (HEA) formed in 1991. Eighty years ago, HEA was known as Home Bureau and is now known as Home and Community Education, a part of Illinois Association for Home and Community Education. (IAHCE)

Cindy Hays spearheaded the effort to organize the Maroa Unit. We originally met in the homes of our members rotating hostess duties. The group now meets at the Maroa Library on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. during the months of September to June.

Each meeting consists of a regular business meeting with education lessons distributed. Lesson plans are provided by the County Unit and often researched and taught by an educator from the University of Illinois to a group at the Macon County Extension Office, then taught to each unit by the representative from the unit that had attended.

The group has enjoyed a varied membership over the years. Many in the community have been a member for a year or more depending on life changes. Current membership includes: Michelle Maple, Rachel Morr, Colleen Dale, Erin Weiss, Janice Leach, Karen Halicki, Terri Tate, Barb Hastings, Sherryl Young, Bobbi Mashburn, and Ruth Darelius.

Over the years the group has participated in many civic and charitable functions including refreshments for the St. Jude's Bike-a-Thon, sandwiches for the semi-annual blood drive sponsored by the Lion's Club, the Christmas Project, sponsoring awards for the Macon County 4-H Fair, donations to the Library, planting flowers at Spencer Park, providing dollars for playground equipment at the Maroa Grade School, and items sent to soldiers overseas. In order to provide many of these items, we have had a number of fund-raisers i.e. cookie sale at the Maroa Elevator during harvest, bake sales during town rummage sales, Kids Korner during July 4th celebrations, and Christmas Lighting Contest.

Patchwork Unit also has had numerous planned outings. Some of the outings have been: Dinner & a Movie, shopping at Vinegar Hill, Lesson and meal at Mari-Mann Herb Farm. We have included our spouses at events at the Sunshine Dinner Theater, Barn 2, and Picnics at the Park with the entire family.

Maroa Township

Maroa Township Hall

Township Trustees

Stanton Malone George Campbell James Underwood Jack Shaw

Cemetery Trustees

James Leach William Faulkner Randy Runyen

Community Building Trustees

Edwin Miller Diana Campbell Charles Summers

Supervisor - L. Bradley Wilkey Clerk - Larry Peasley

Highway Commissioner - R. Shawn Pittman

Assessor - Barbara Lamont Sexton - Loren Doak

MAROA WOMEN'S CLUB

The Maroa Woman's Club was organized in January 1958. They met in the room above the Maroa Community Center at 119 West Main Street because of the large number of members. Now the meetings are held in the members homes. The club meets on the thrid Monday of the following months: September, October, November, December, January or February, March, April, and May. Original members who are still members of the Club are Virginia Crouch, Lea Eagler, Dorothy Stoutenborough, and Honorary member Fleta Marlow. Another Honorary member is Ernestine Crabtree.

the object of the club is to be social and intellectual and to create an interest in the betterment of the community. Any woman who feels she has an interest with the group and is interested in the welfare of the community is urged to become a member.

Originally the Club was affiliated with the national organization, but some years ago, decided to drop their membership in the national organization. Now, it is stricly a local club, and all the money earned is spent in the community on a variety of projects.

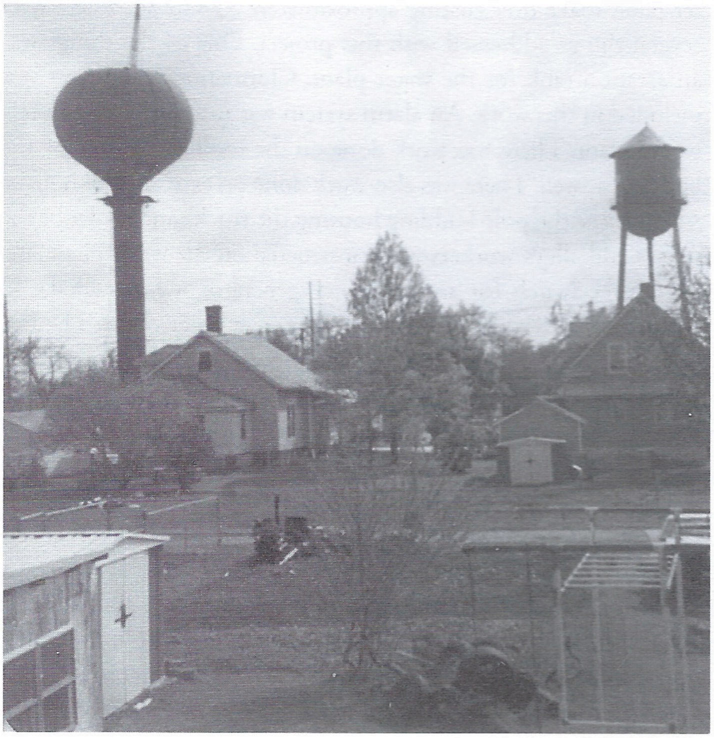
People who have served as president of the club are as follows:

Past Presidents:
1958-60 Betty (Corwin) Marsh
60-61 Margaret (Chas.) Hamilton
61-63 Fleta (H.O.) Marlow
63-64 Charlotte (Robt.) Underwood
64-65 Ohna (W.L.) Terrell
65-66 Leah (Harold) Eagler
66-68 Virginia (R.M.) Crouch
68-69 Catherine (Geo.) Hunt
69-71 Sue (Bill) Brown
71-72 Ardythe (Keith) Dial
72-73 Dorothy (W.R.) Stoutenborough
73-75 Ruth (J.E.) Connelly
75-77 Joyce (Lowell) Griffith
76-77 Jan (Stephen) Reeser
77-78 Virginia (Harold) Lienhart
78-80 Vernette Miller
80-81 Ruth (J.E.) Connelly
81-82 Ardythe (Keith) Dial
82-83 Marilyn (Don) Shuey
83-84 Gwen (Delbert) Clifton
84-85 Ellen (Wm., Jr.) Sinkosky
85-86 Gwen (Delbert) Clifton
 Charlotte (Robt.) Underwood
86-87 Gwen (Delbert) Clifton
 Virginia (James) Bragg
87-88 Virginia (R.M.) Crouch
88-89 Freddonna (Wm.) Faulkner
89-90 Freddonna (Wm.) Faulkner
 Dorothy (W.R.) Stoutenborough
90-91 Gwen (Delbert) Clifton
91-93 Virginia (R.M.) Crouch
93-95 Margaret (Chas.) Hamilton
95-96 Charlotte (Robt.) Underwood
96-97 Kathryn (Robt.) Sronce
97-98 Linda (Mitch) Kropp
1998-2001 Betty Coen
2001-2003 Theresa Nottrott
2003-2005 Donna Van Dusen

Charter Members
As listed in the 1958-59 Program Book
(* - indicates presently a member)
Helen (Woodrow) Agee
Louise (G.E.) Archey
Atha (O.T.) Atchison
Blanche (Fred) Atkins
Rita (George R.) Austin
Helen (Robert) Bolen
Alma Connelly
*Virginia (R.M.) Crouch
Ardylh (Keith) Dial
*Leah (Harold) Eagler
Elizabeth (Lyle) Feathers
Mildred (Edward) Foulke
Edna (Raymond) Garvin
Margaret (Charles) Hamilton
Lorraine (Kenneth) Hansen
Helen (Wm.) Hinkle
Catherine (George) Hunt
Jenny (Clarence R.) Jones
Mildred (Herb) Kammarmeyer
Mary (James) Leach
Shirley (John) Leach
Viva (Robert) Lienhart
Mary (Carrol) Long
Betty (Glenn) Marlow
*Fleta (Herbert) Marlow
Betty (Corwin) Marsh
Ada (James) Meece
Rada (Glenn) Meryman
LaVonne (John R.) Miller
Jean (Elston) Mitchell
Mary (W.P.) Montgomery
Helen (David) Moyer
Naomi (Bernard) Myers
Darlene (Don) Schneider
Betty Shaw
Ruth (Allen) Snyder
Kathryn (Robert) Sronce
Barbara (C.G.) Stoutenborough
Betty (R.E.) Stoutenborough
*Dorothy (W.R.) Stoutenborough
Marthalouise (Roy) Stoutenborough
Ohna(W.L.)Terrell
Jeanette (Harold) Totten
Doris Turns
Evelyn (Verniel) Westerman
Mary (Wm. F.) Wikoff
Alice (C.A.) Wilson

The Maroa Woman's club in the 1920's

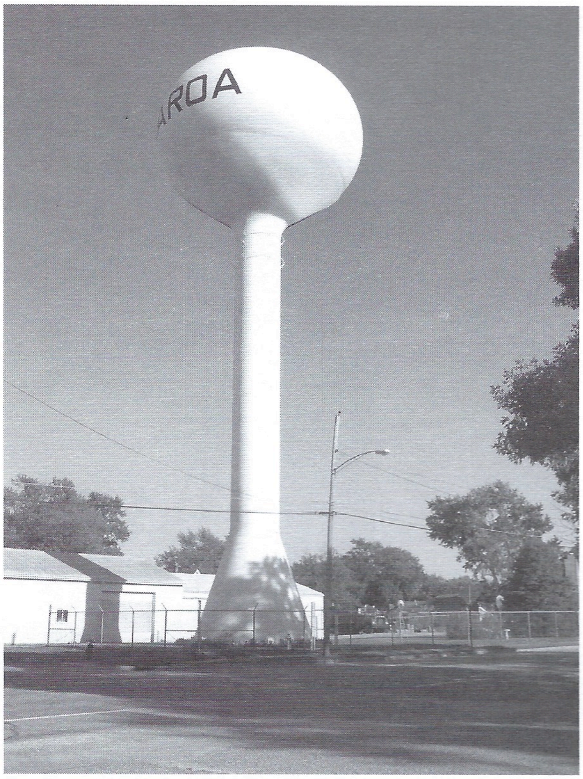
MAJOR WATER & SEWER PROJECTS FOR THE CITY OF MAROA



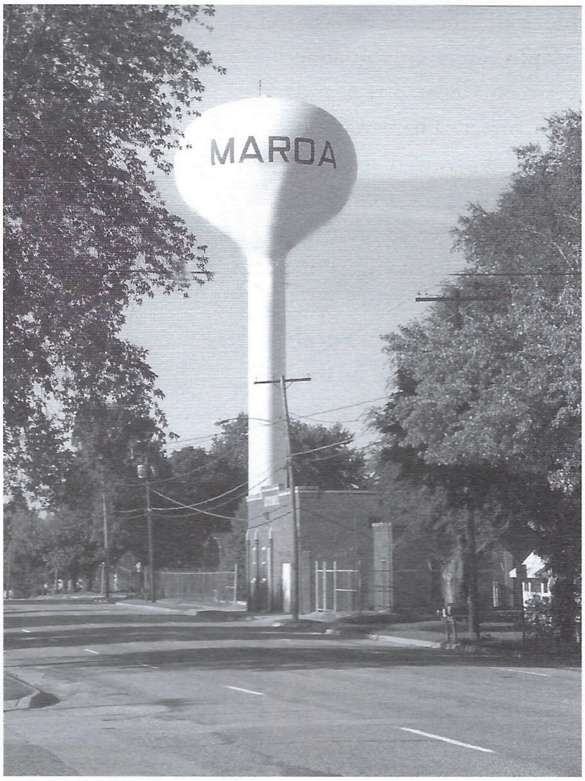
This 1981 picture shows the new water tower being built, and the old tower as well.

The State put the Maroa sewer system on a closed status in 1970. That meant that we could not add new sewer users until we up graded our sewer system. The City started a project in February of 1978 to expand the sewer system. The cost of the work done on the system was approximately $1.6 million. The City received a grant for approximately $1.1 million from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency. The City share was approximately $500,000. The city took out bonds for approximately $400,000 of that amount. Included in this work was a generator. The work was completed in February of 1981. The plant expansion and remodeling, along with new pump stations, gave the City a plant that would handle the needs of the City and allow for future expansion. These bonds will be paid off in May of 2009.

The next major project was in was a grant for $335,000 received in May 13, 1980. This was a wa-



The other building at the water tower is the facility is the shed where the city housed the trucks, and other equipment to be used. The planned new water treatment facility will be placed in that location, and that shed will be moved to a different location.

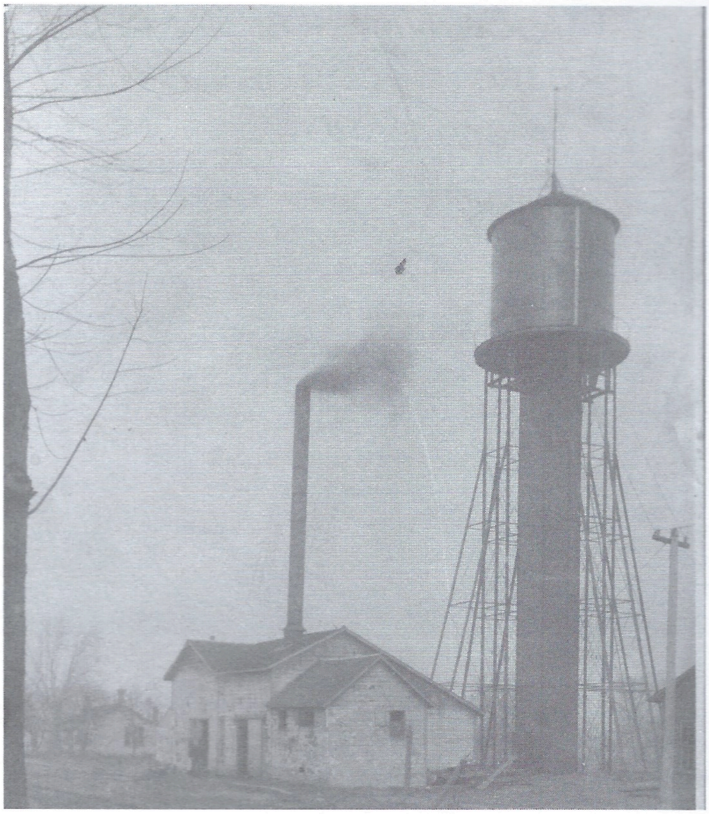


The water tower in 2004. The brick building is where the water treatment plant is located, where the water is sampled, and the additives (such as fluoride) are added.

ter plant make over costing approximately $187,284. There were several things addressed with this project. One of the things was an aeration tank for the water plant. Clorination equipment was included in this work. An alarm system was installed in the waterworks plant. There was work done on the roof and rafters of the building as well. There was also work done on existing well houses. At this time the pole building housing the trucks and tools for the streets and alleys workers was constructed on the water plant site. A transfer switch for an emergency generator was installed. In January of 1981 bids were taken for a new water tower. The low bid of $269,768 was awarded for a tower with the capacity of 250,000 gallons and work began on this project. These two major projects together accounted for the use of the grant. This grant was closed out on March 5, 1982.

In 1992 the City received a grant for sewer work from the Illinois Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP). The project was for $208,717 with the City portion of this project at approximately $55,000. Included in this project was approximately 5,700 feet of sewer line. These sewers were replaced using the traditional method of open trenching. The sewers replaced were: Ash Street sewer, Cedar Street sewer, the sewer in the alley between the 300 block of Washington Street and the 300 block of Main Street, the sewer on Walnut Street from Madison Street to Monroe Street, the sewer in the alley between the 100 block of Locust Street and Pine Street, the sewer between the 400 block of Locust Street and Pine Street, the sewer on Olive Street, the sewer line in the alley between the 400 block of Walnut Street and the 400 block of Chestnut Street, and the section on Lincoln Street from Maple Street to the alley between Cedar Street and Elm Street. There was no money borrowed for this project.

The City received another sewer grant from CDAP in December of 1995 for $250,000. In total $333,333 was spent on this project with the City picking up the other $83,333. This project included putting a forced main extension from the corner of Oak Street and Monroe Street to the lagoon at the sewer plant. This forced main extension alleviated sewer back up problems all over the City. The project also introduced a new way of repairing sewer mains to the City in the form of Pipeliner Systems Inc. Lining the sewers instead of digging them up and replacing them allowed the City to repair approximately 150% of the amount of feet of sewer that could



City of Maroa's first water tower.

City Water Works. Maroa, Ill. 434.

City of Maroa's second water tower built in 1907. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.

have been repaired with the more expensive open trench method.

On April 17,1995 the City received a specifications list from Norman Noe co. Inc. listing the problems that existed with their water tower. The list consisted of many problems that needed to be addressed to maintain the tower. A bid of $136,500 from JETCO, LTD. was accepted for the work. With the addition of the cost of a portable tower and the engineers cost, it came to $144,500. This was for painting and other maintenance work needed to keep the tower viable for the future. This project was completed without borrowing any money.

November of 1998 the City Commissioned a study on the Water Distribution Improvements needed within the City boundaries. It was recommended that the City replace some of the water mains. The enormity of this led City officials to decide that this project would have to be undertaken in parcels. The City decided to replace the water mains listed; (A) on Wood Street from the North end of the City limits South to Jefferson Street and put an eight inch main from Wood Street to Oak Street down Jefferson Street, (B) the water main from Wood Street down East Washington Street to Birch Street and (C) the water main down Main Street from Wood to the West limits of the City. After receiving the bids on these three projects the Council decided that they had only enough money to proceed with parts A and B. The low bid for these two projects was $631,584 submitted by Bodine Services, Inc. of Decatur. The two projects began in May 2000 and were completed in October 2000. Approximately 5150 feet of 12" water main and approximately 1100 feet of 8" water main were included in this project as was 13 new fire hydrants. Although the City looked into several different grants and other funding help, the City paid for the project in its entirety. The project came in under budget with the final cost being $591,141.43. This amount was paid without borrowing any money.

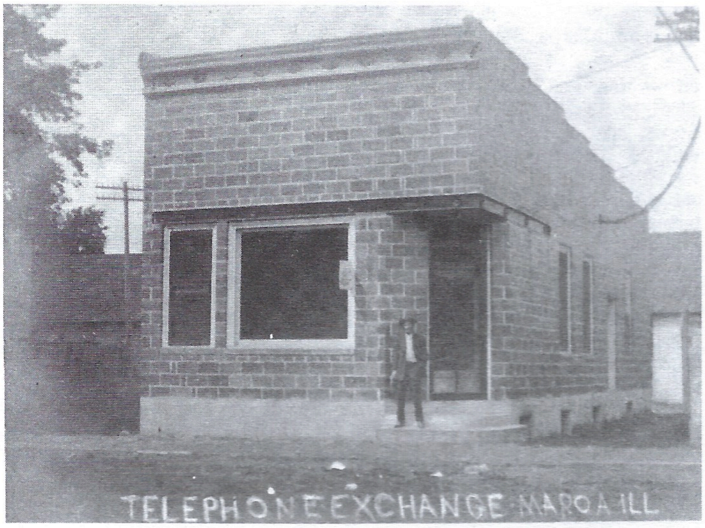
Unfortunately we could not start replacing the rest of the needed water mains due to the fact that President Clinton signed a measure to reduce the amount of arsenic allowed from 50 parts per billion to 10 parts per billion before he left office. President Bush rescinded that for a while, but finally allowed the measure to go into practice. The City water has an arsenic level of between 20 parts per billion and thirty parts per billion. The arsenic happens naturally in water taken from an aquifer, such as the Mahomet Aquifer from which the City draws water. This means that the City has to proceed on the water plant to be ready for this implementation on January 1, 2006. With the age of the plant and the lack of area inside the plant to add any new systems, it was decided to build a new plant. The preliminary plans call for the plant to cost the City approximately $1.3 to $1.4 million. At this time the Council is working to find a way to offset some of this cost with a grant. To date nothing firm in the way of a grant has been offered, but they have not given up on the idea and are working to get a CDAP grant. To get this grant we have to show that 51%, or more, of our residents are low to moderate income. We have the surveys done and have hired a consultant to work the numbers for us.

TELEPHONES

The first system of telephones in Maroa consisted of ten or twelve home-owned instruments with a dial on each one. A pointer on the dial was turned to the number wanted and the crank turned to ring. As more families wanted phones, a switchboard system was established. The switchboard was in the News-Times office when that building burned. Then it was moved to the second floor of the Crocker & Co. Bank Building.

The People's Telephone Co. was sold to the Maroa Mutual Telephone Co., who built the Telephone Exchange Office on West Main Street in 1907. Of this Company, the President was J. P. Stoutenborough; Secretary, J. S. Stoutenborough; Treasurer, D. N. Gray. This system became a part of the Illinois Central Telephone Company in 1925, after the big ice storm of December 1924.

The chief telephone operator was Edna Jones. Other operators included Mary, Leona & Nora Rolofson, Marjorie Leach, Betty Wilkey, Dorothy Jane Thrift, Luan Pulliam, Dorothy Gentle, and Verda Elliott. The system was automated in November 1955 when it went to the dial system. Many citizens didn't see this as progress, as now they couldn't just pick up the phone and tell Edna that they would be over at their neighbor's house, knowing that

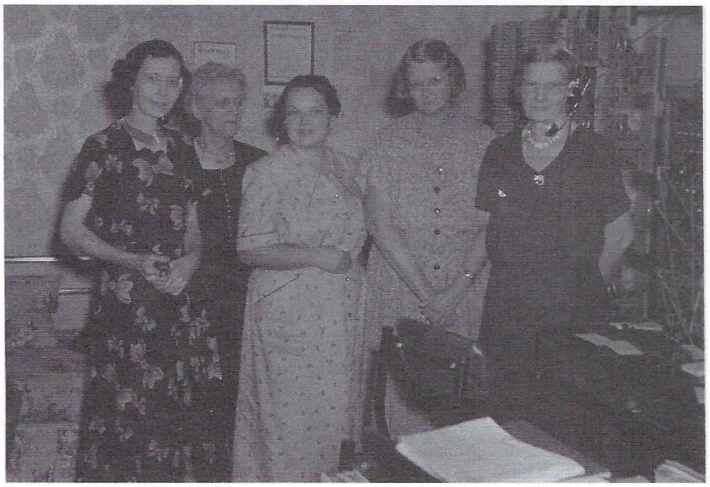


This 1920 era picture of the telephone exchange in Maroa housed the equipment used for phone switching for many years. It was only in 1997 that the phone company had to build a different building (in fact just to the north of this building on Main Street).

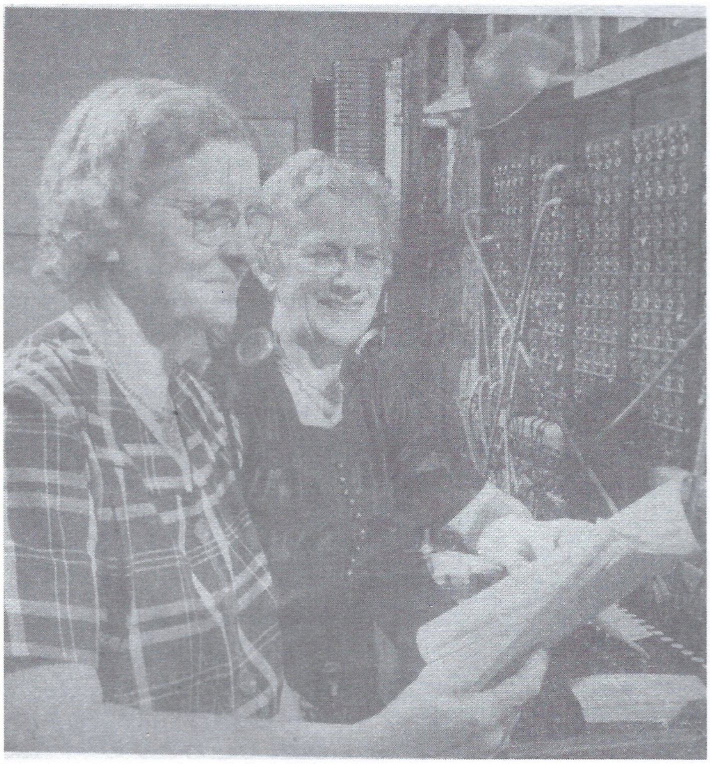
January 1, 1925 Maroa Telephone Company
January 1, 1929 State Central Telephone Company
October 23, 1929 Ful Warson Telephone Company
October 31, 1956 Illinois Central Telephone Company
September 5, 1963 General Telephone Equipment (GTE)
October 29, 1999 Verizon

their calls would be transferred and they would not miss a call. Progress continued as fiber optics was brought into Maroa on December 10, 1997 and those on the system now had to dial all 7 digits instead of just 4 to connect to their Maroa neighbors. The original Telephone Exchange Office on West Main Street was torn down in 2001, as it was no longer needed to house the system. The demolition of the building was watched by several Maroa citizens from their lawn chairs on the south side of Main Street. The highlight of the demolition occurred when the backhoe being used to tear down the building fell into the basement of the old building while trying to tear down the back section of the building. It had been thought that the floor was still strong enough to support the weight of the backhoe, only to find out that it wasn't - the hard way!

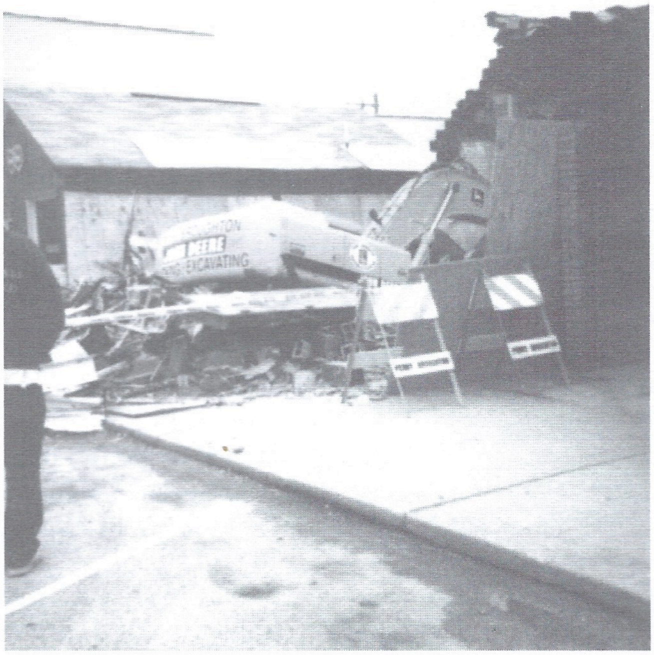
Progress continues to this day with the changes in laws so that now citizens can choose their carrier. Internet is also available now with no long distance charges through Locomp. Also, with the increase in cellular phone usage, several transmission towers have been erected in the surrounding countryside. Even though we are a smaller community, we still have the conveniences of a larger community!



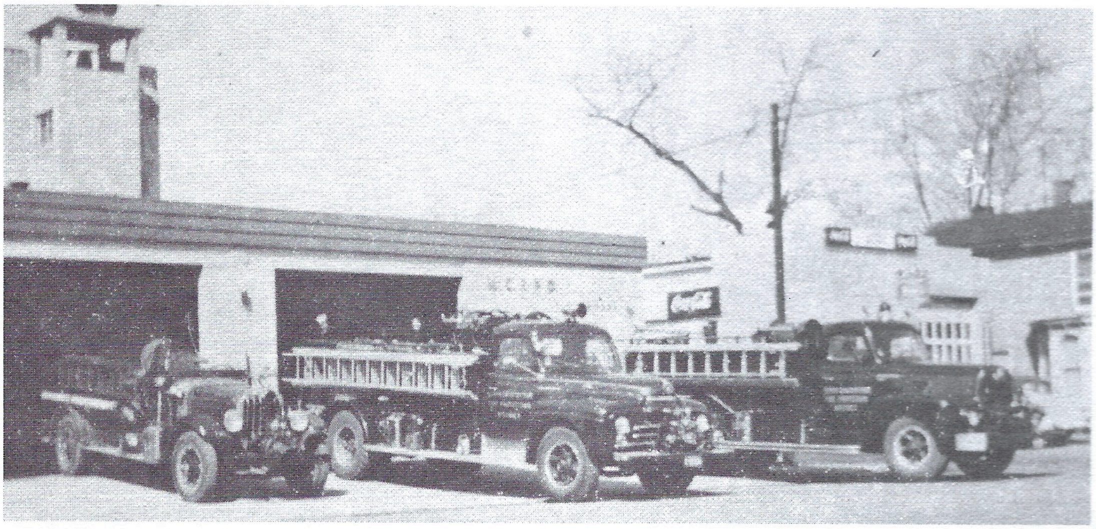
Telephone Operators taken in November 7, 1955 (just before the technology made operators unnescessary) from left: Leona Pennypacker, Edna Jones, Joanna Stuller, Leona Rolofson, Nora Rolofson. Picture courtesy of Dorothy J Braden Cisco.



Miss Edna Jones and Miss Nora Rolofson are shown in this October 28, 1955 picture from The Decatur Review going over some papers. Miss Jones first reported to the building on Main Street in 1914 and for her work as operator received $3.50 per week. A century of telephone operators was replaced on November 15, 1955 and switched to dial system.



In 2000, the old phone building which had seen so much progress in the town of Maroa, was torn down. GTE (now called Verizon) had already built the building that housed the current electronic system to the north of the building. Note the backhoe which was performing the demolition is not really where it should be.



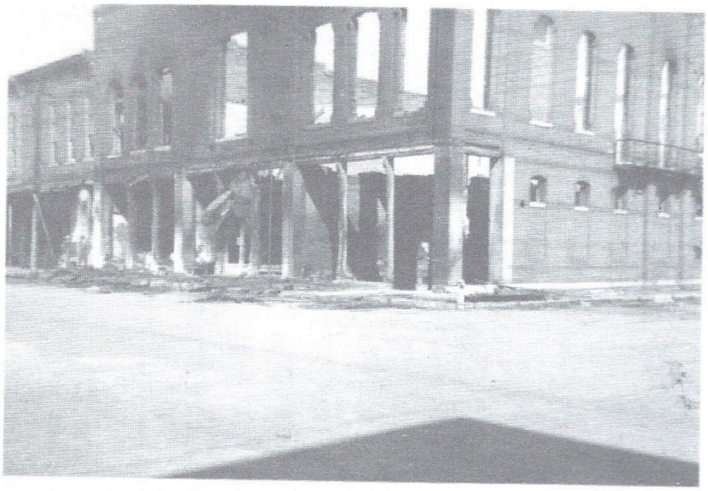
In 1954 this was the new home of the Maroa Countryside Fire Protection District trucks. The building is located just north of Main street on Walnut.

Maroa's fire Department on it's return from State Tournament in 1902. Left to right: Clarence Brake, John Jump, Unknown, Bruce Waller, Claude Crandall, Stanley Kinkaid, George Legge, Ben Taylor, Andrew Legge, Harry Elliot, Arthur Bowden, Orville Allsup and Henry Kent.

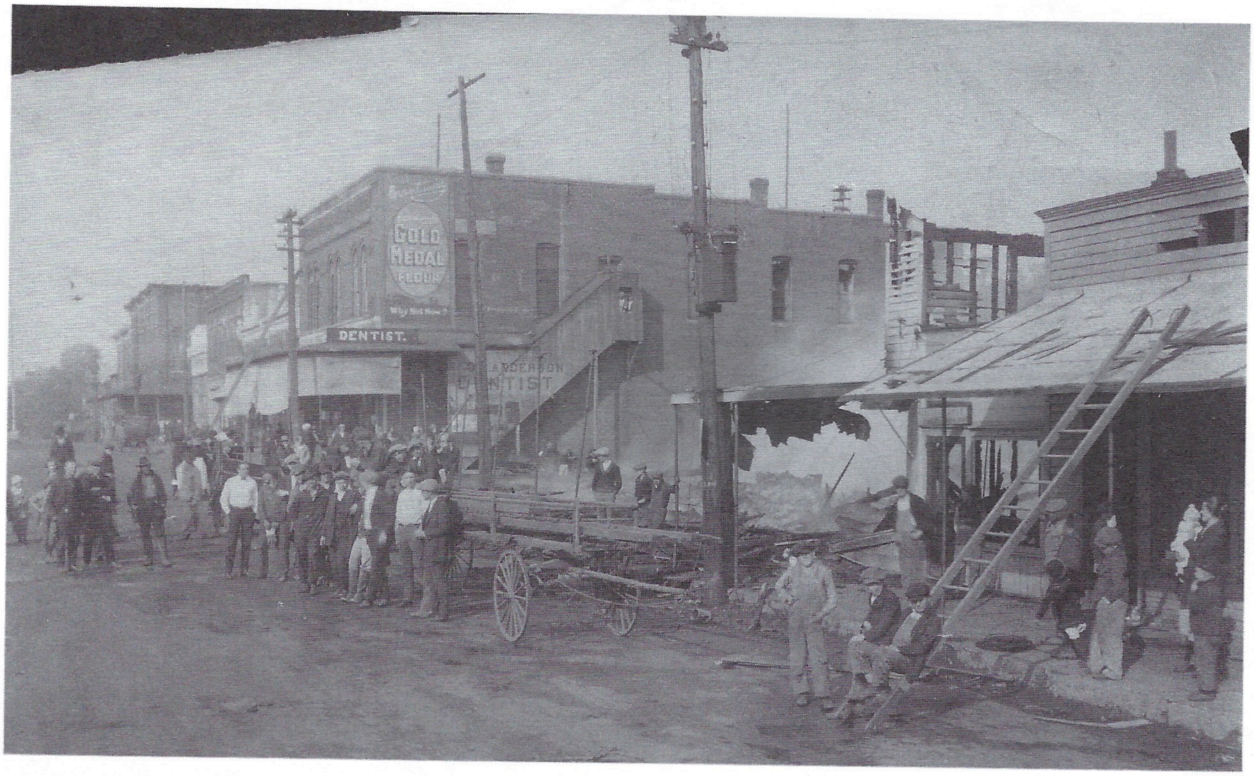
The following fires were of note in the recent past because each of the structures was totally lost. In July 1966 the Maroa Grain Elevator was lost. In 1970 Pence Grain Elevator on School Rd, and also in the 1970's Gene Creekmur Tavern was lost. In February 1977 East Madison had a fire. In December 1992 Huffman Cabinets 110 N. Hickory was lost to fire, and in August 1997, the Mandrel house at 529 E. Washington was lost to fire.

GOLD MEDAL FLOUR
DENTIST.
DENTIST

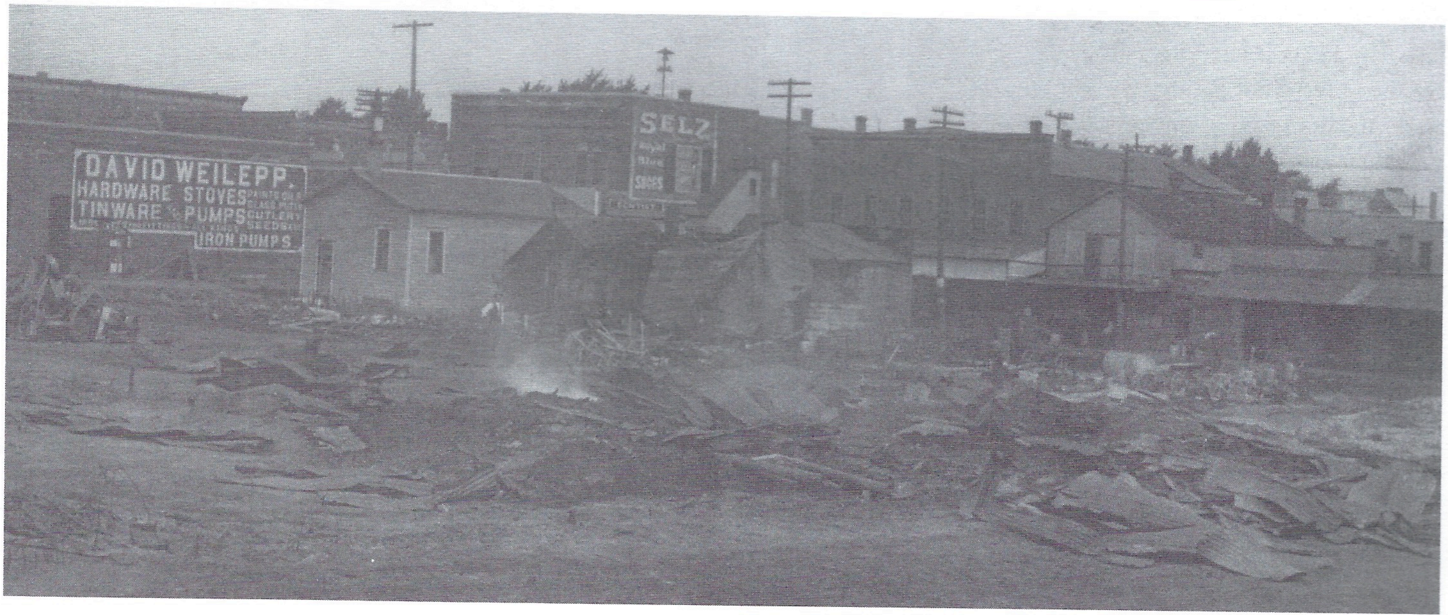
Picture along Main Street after Elevator Fire



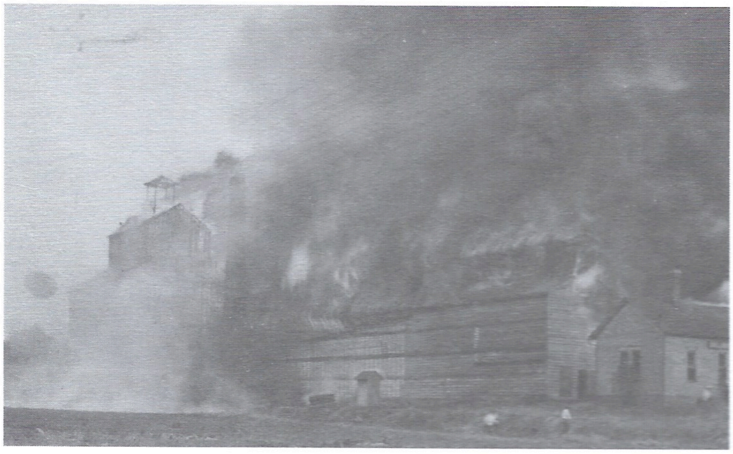
The aftermath of the 1948 fire of the El Roa Inn. It was on the north west corner of the Walnut Street and Main Street.


GOLD MEDAL FLOUR
DENTIST.
DENTIST

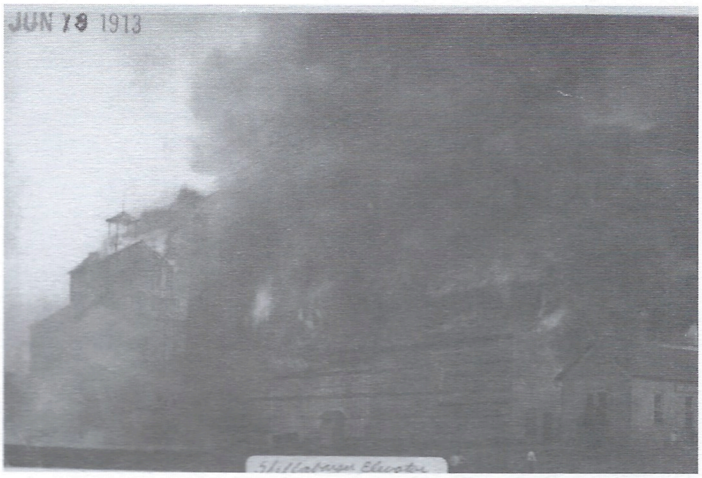
This aftermath of the 1922 fire on Main Street was taken Saturday, October 21, 1922


DAVID WEILEPP.
HARDWARE STOVES
TINWARE PUMPS
IRON PUMPS
SELZ

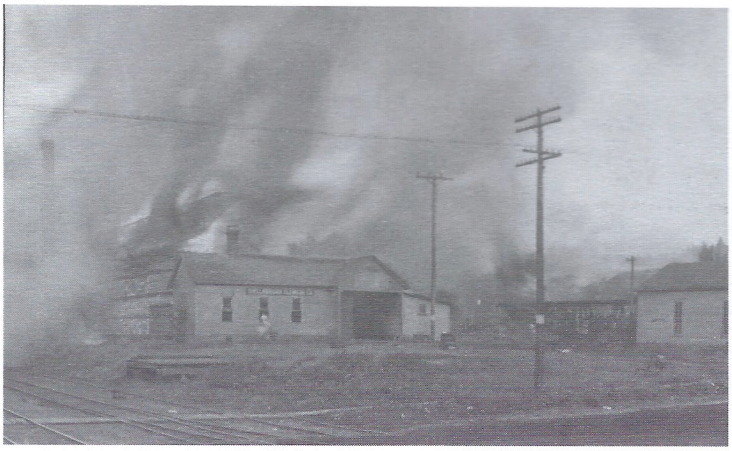
The result of the fire of 1913. Photo courtesy of M&M Café



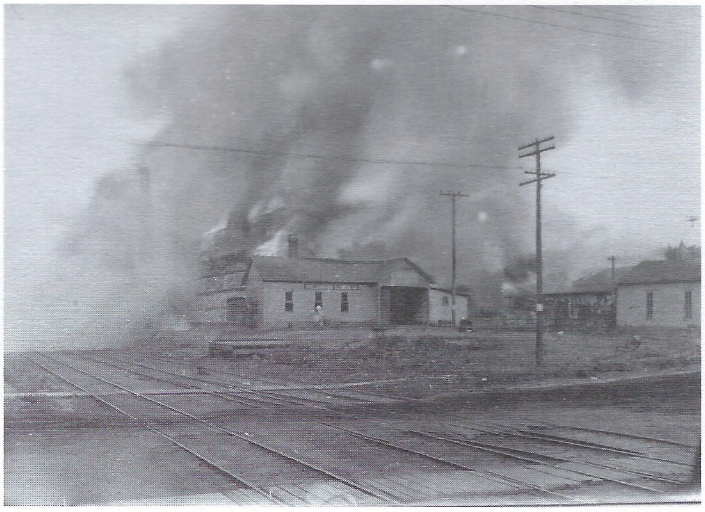
Note the skeletal structure of the one part of the elevator in this 1913 fire picture. Courtesy of Larry Nix.



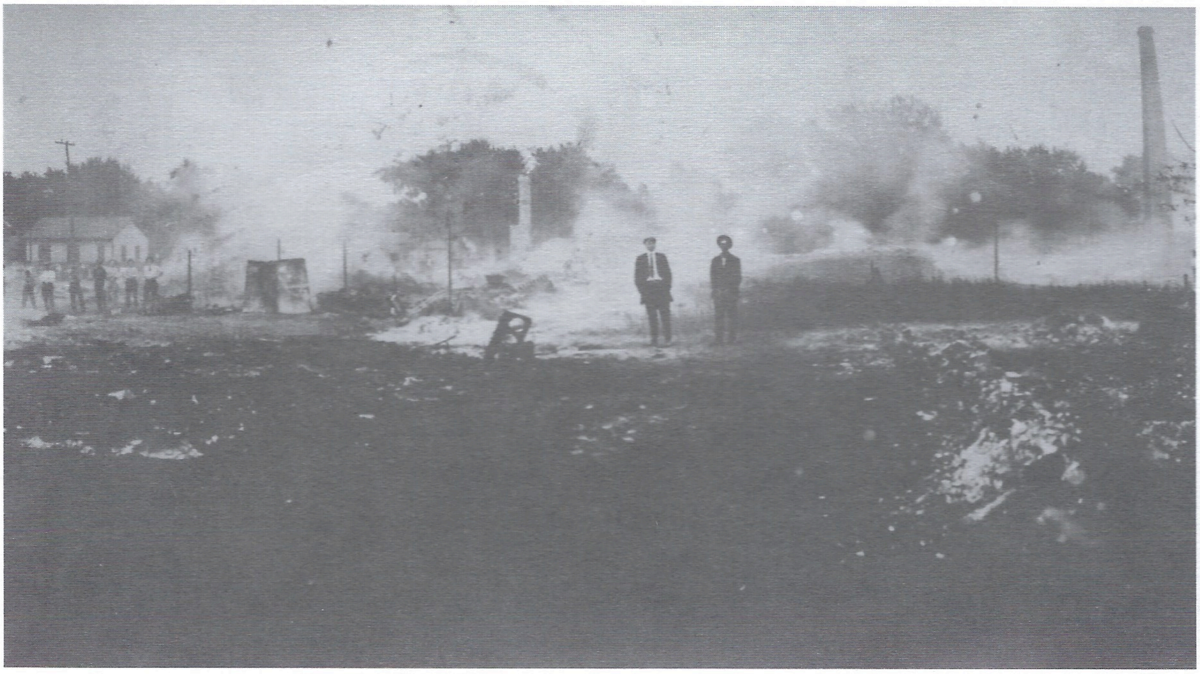
Shellabarger Elevator fire of 1912. Photo courtesy of M&M Café



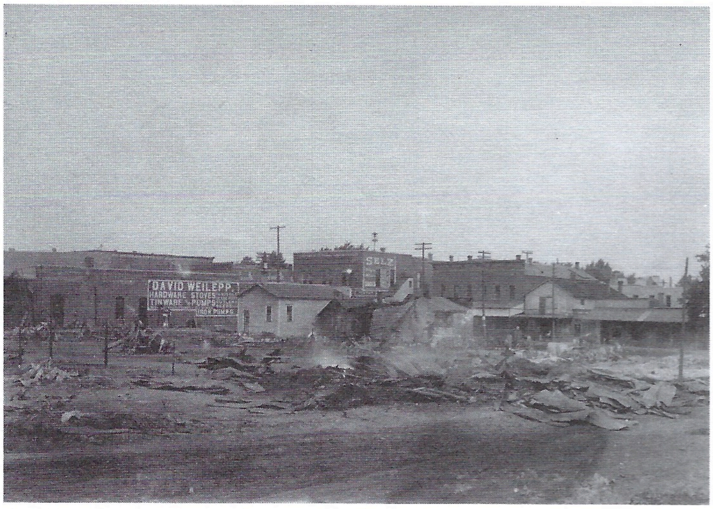
An ironic picture of the Shellabarger elevator fire in 1912 with the building name in the foreground.
Courtesy of Larry Nix.



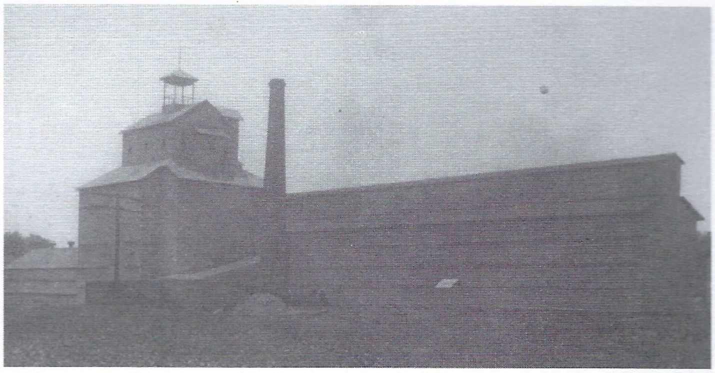
Picture of elevator fire viewed from north of Main Street looking south along old Rail Road track.



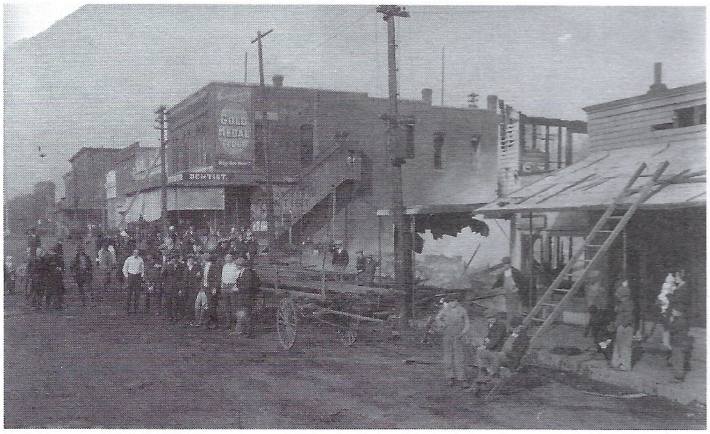
An early display of the Fire engine on Walnut street north of Main street. Picture Cir 1900


DAVID WEILEPP
HARDWARE STOVES
TINWARE PUMPS
SELZ

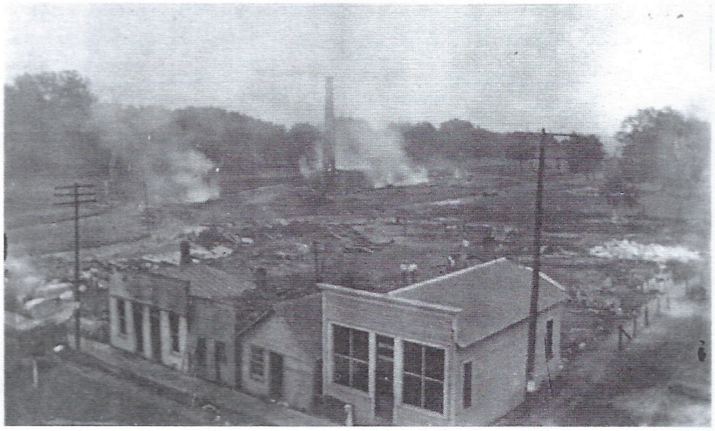
Picture of Main and Walnut looking north after the fire 1918.



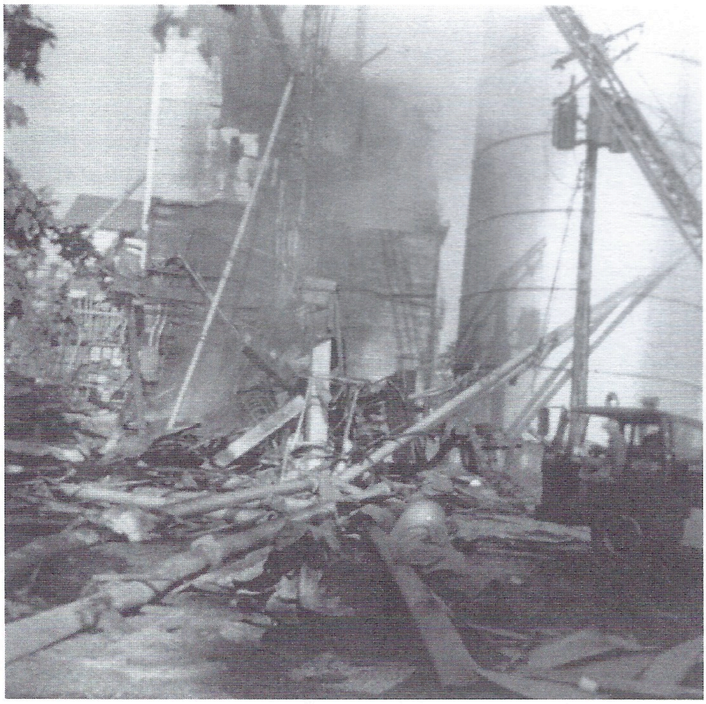
Shellabarger elevator before the fire of 1912. Photo courtesy of M&M Café


GOLD MEDAL FLOUR
DENTIST

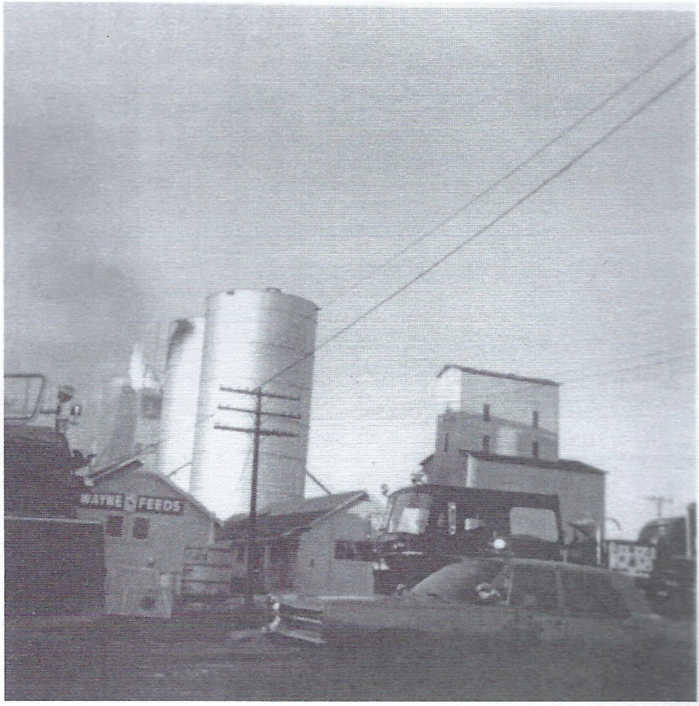
Picture of Main Street after the fire in 1913.



A birds eye view of the aftermath of the Shellabarger fire of 1913. It came all the way to the south corner of Walnut and Lincoln buring the Methodist church. (just out of picture). Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.



The aftermath of the 1968 elevator fire as the cleanup begins.


WAYNE FEEDS

The beginning of the elevator fire in 1968.

MAYORS OF MAROA

John H. Crocker 1889
John Crocker 1890(finished unexpired term of his father)
Frank Potter 1891
W. T. McLean 1895
R. E. Persinger 1899
M. R. Allsup 1901
Frank Potter 1905
S. A Friedman 1909
Harry Shields 1912 (pre tem until election in 1913)
T. C. Grady 1917
James A Worsham 1919
J. Earl Sigler 1921
Charles J. Spooner 1925
W. B. Hutchison 1927
John Larson 1932 (Pro tem until election in 1933)
John F. Jump 1935
Fred M Grady 1937
John F. Jump 1941
Robert D. Bolen, Jr. 1949
Dr. W. L. Terrell 1965
Robert L. Lienhart 1977
Dr. W. L. Terrell 1985
Tom Armstrong 1989
Richard Young 1991 (Pro tem until election in 1993)
Richard Young 1993
Ted Agee 2001

MAROA TIDBIT

I remember getting to meet Mike Stevens who I had 'visited' with via email prior to the Sesquicentennial weekend. He is from San Diego, California. He had been planning for quite some time to come back to visit Maroa during the Sesquicentennial celebration weekend. When I met him Friday evening, I encouraged him to put a pin in our United States map we had set up. We knew of several people (via the web site and email) that were planning on coming here from Florida, Texas and other states. We discussed that he might win the 'farthest traveled' contest. Little did we know that he would not even be in the top five of people traveling long distances! The two folks from Hawaii were also challenged by the person from Anchorage, Alaska, and the visitors from Plymouth, England, and Nottingham, England. I also know talking to others, that not everyone realized the map was there, and we may have missed some. I did get a chance to meet the lady visiting form Cuba, and from Wyoming.

Ray Ramirez DVM Sesquicentennial committee member age 43

In 1996 Maroa had its first woman Alderman, Sharon Woolum was appointed to be alderman for Ward 1 upon the resignation of Forrest Heinz. Sharon was later elected to fill that position. Kelly Ramirez became the first officially elected woman alderman when she won the election in 1998.

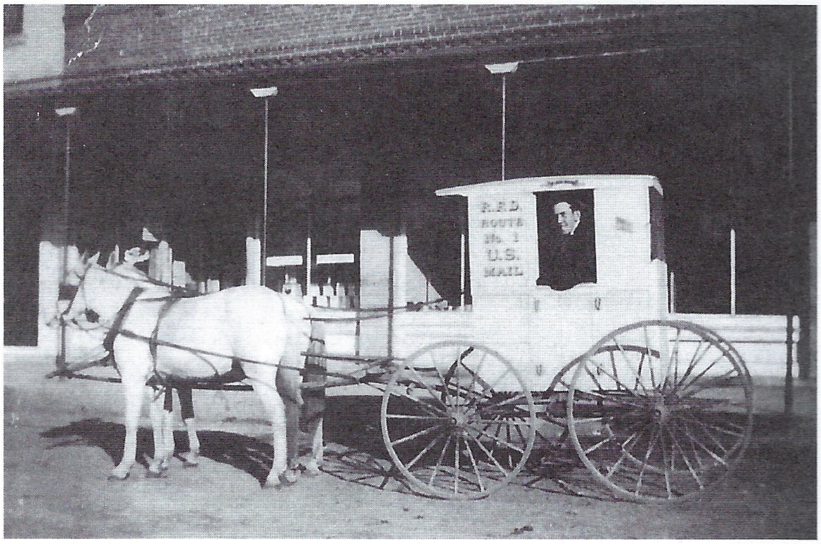
The current City Council is:
Mayor: Ted Agee
City Clerk: Kathryn Shirey
City Treasurer: Sharon Head
Alderman from Ward 1: Ronald Runyen, Alan Hoffman
Alderman from Ward 2: Tom Agee Jr., Bill Holley,
Alderman from Ward 3: Orville Dash, Tammy Larson.

City hall is currently open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. And 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. And Saturday from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. To contact the office, call 794-2206

MAROA POST OFFICE

POSTMASTERS IN MAROA

John Crocker March 30, 1855
Job H. Race March 17, 1869
Thomas N. Leavitt December 23, 1872
Henry B. Smith July 20, 1885
Elam W. Hill January 9, 1890
Benjamin F Shipley, February 16, 1894
James P. Morgan February 18, 1898
Robert D. Bolen, Sr. June 27, 1914
Walter W. Ward February 10, 1923
W. D. Milnes June 17, 1935
Charles R. Hippard June 30, 1950
R. W. Tozer April, 1967
Emily Popejoy October 23, 1987
Debbie Karasch February 24, 1993
Janet Hedrick June 2002
Tammy Workman (Officer in charge)June 2003 - May 2004
Bob Richardson May 2004 to present

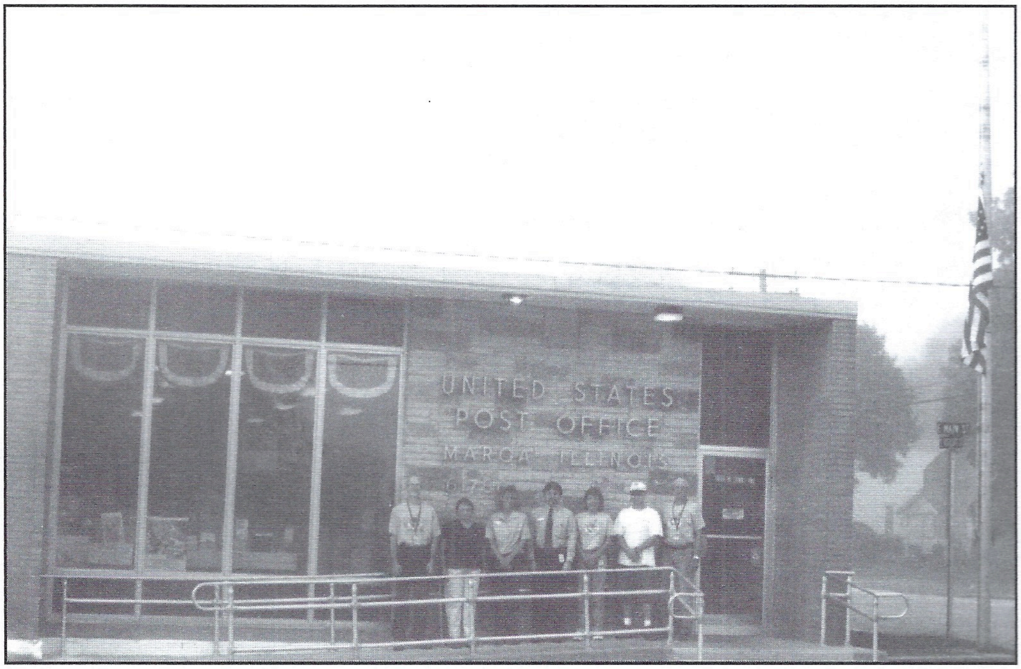


The Postal service vehicle for Rural route delivery of the mail.

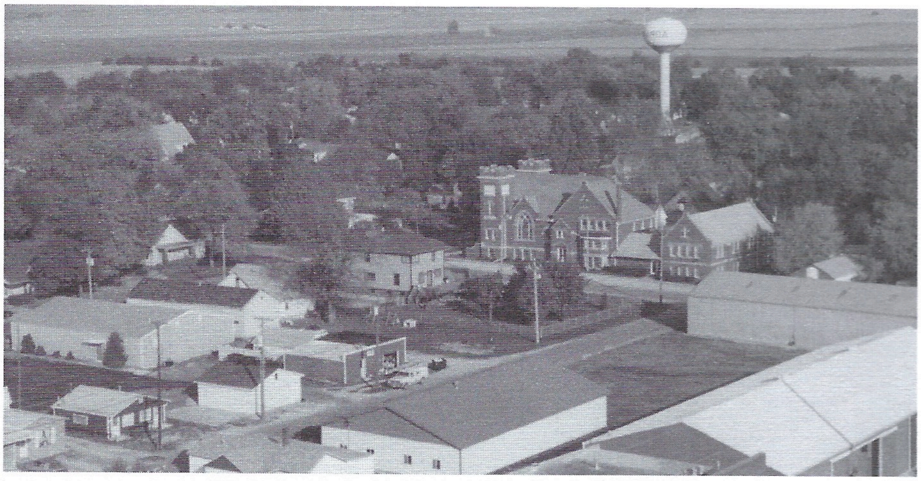
Four rural routes were established July 1, 1901 with H. M. Morris, W. W. Nesbitt, H. A. Walker and Capt. C. F. Emery as carriers. In December of that year, Mr. Nesbitt was succeeded by Dick Adams, then a young man in his twenties. Wray Cramer began carrying his route in 1912 and Herman Eagler in 1917, there being three routes at that time. When Dick retired in 1932, his route was divided between the other two routes and they were still served by Wray and Herman in 1954.

The Maroa Post office, located at 200 East Main Street has been in its present location since 1961. A Dedication service for the 2,000 square foot building was held on Saturday, August 18, 1962. Postmaster C. R. Hippard was the postmaster when the new building was occupied. Some of the changes occurring over the years have been replacing the original fuel oil heating system with natural gas and in 1993 new post office boxes with key fronts replaced the original glass fronted, combination lock boxes.

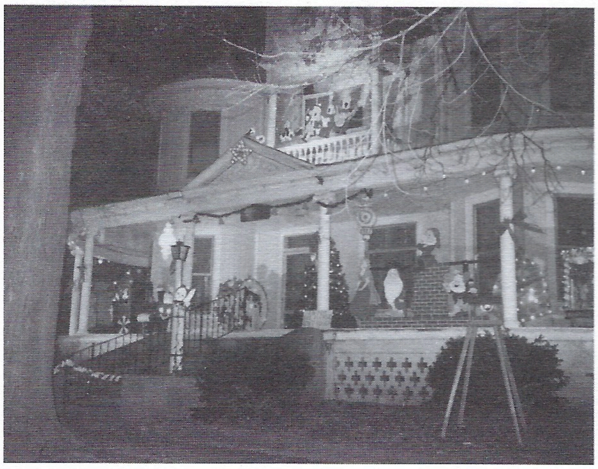
At the present time, the Maroa Post office is staffed by six employees. Postmaster Bob Richardson and Sales and Service Associate Jenny Cearlock are responsible for the retail aspects while Bernard Myers and Dianna Leach are the rural carriers assigned to the office. Diane Dobbs and Charles Buckingham are the rural carrier associates who substitute for the carriers. There are presently 375 active post office boxes in the office and 650 deliveries between the two rural routes.



The 2004 Post office staff in front of the Post Office at the south east corner of Main and Hickory. Left to right: Charles Buckingham, Diane Dobbs, Jenny Cearlock, Bob Richardson, Diana Leach, Daniel Miller, Ben Myers. Note the flag at half staff, as this picture was taken after President Ronald Reagan died, and the flags were flown at half staff for 30 days.



A Birds Eye View of Maroa in 2003



In the 1980's many folks remember the house on 124 South Walnut Street that would decorate for Christmas. It was a lot of fun to see the decorations.

RICH'S Home Center

405 South Side Square
Clinton, Illinois 61727

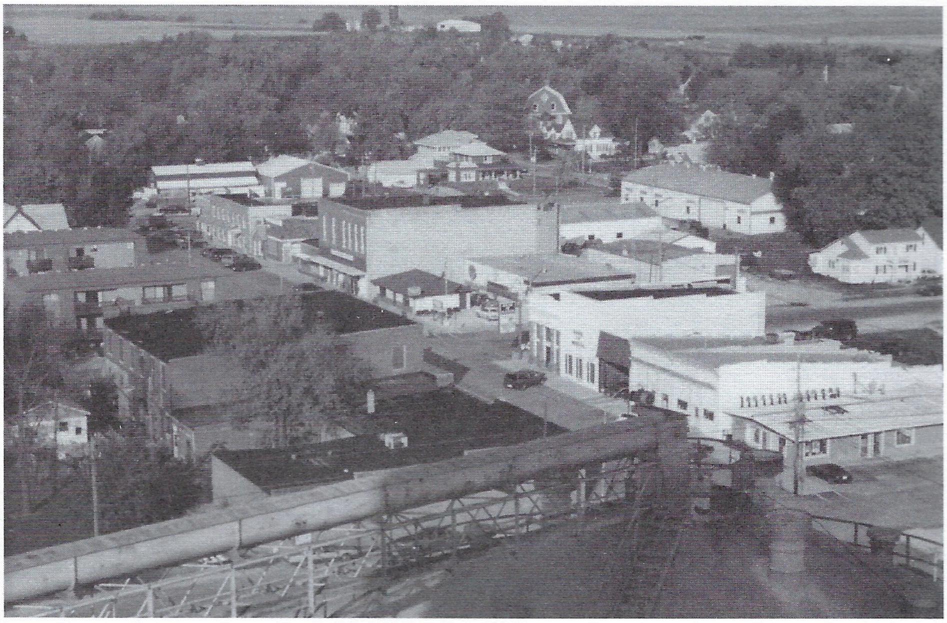
Furniture

Wall Coverings

Floor Coverings

Larry Rich
Rose Mandrell

Telephone
217-935-8218



A Birds eye view of Maroa in 2003

One of many of the decorative plates that were available in Maroa. Courtesy of Larry Nix.

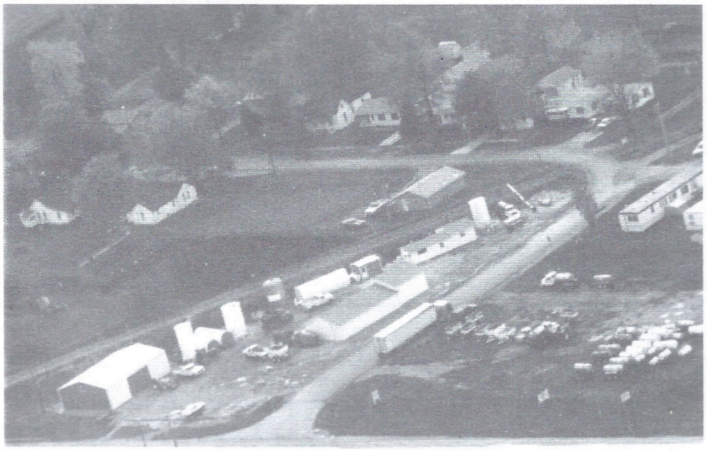
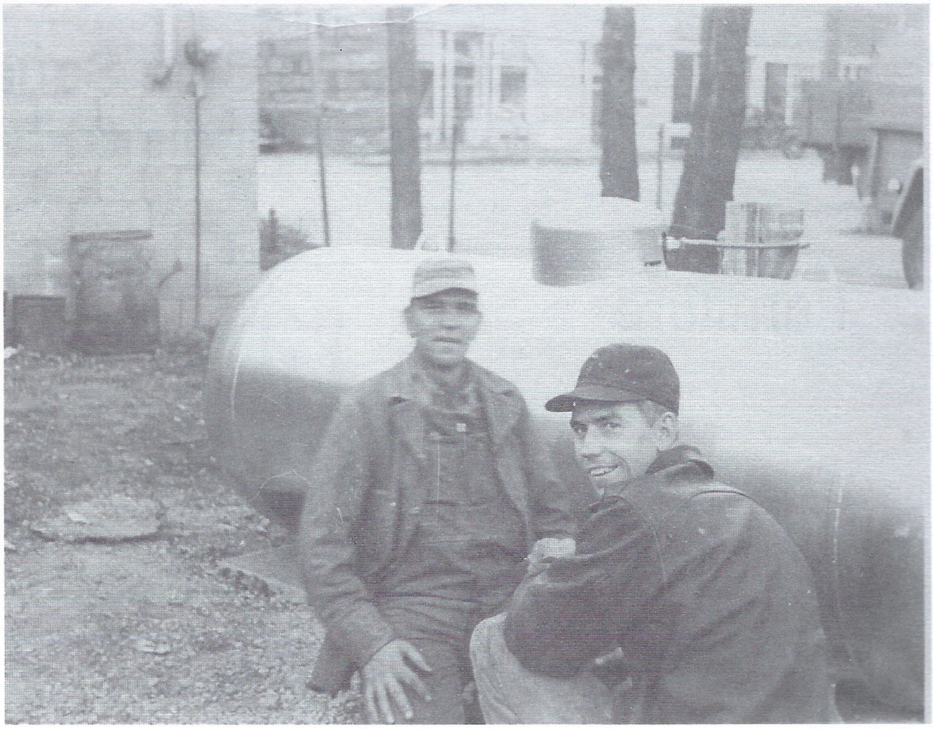
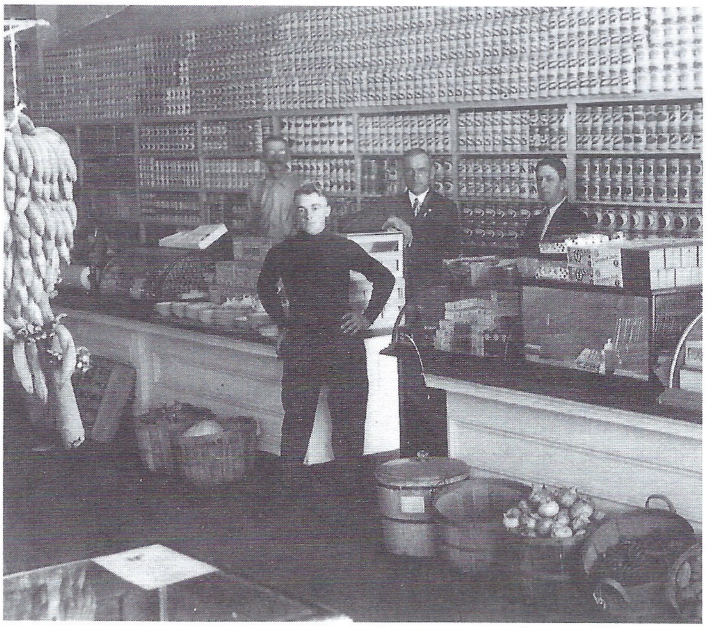


Photo taken in 1985 of the Malone Business.

Spoons with Maroa themes. Courtesy of Larry Nix.

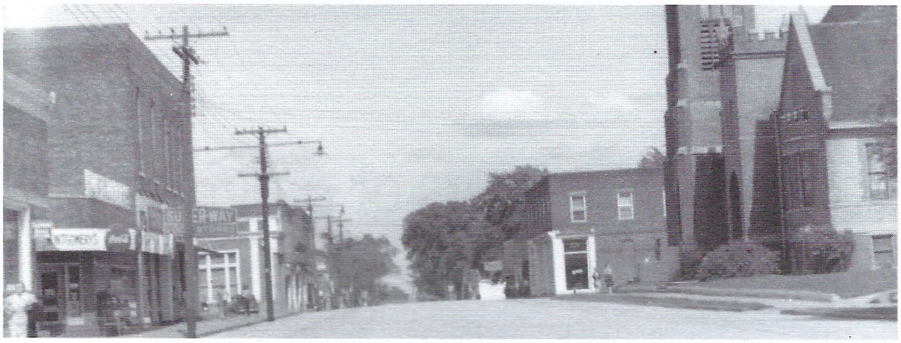


"Pete" McIlvana and Benny Myers filling propane cir 1960.

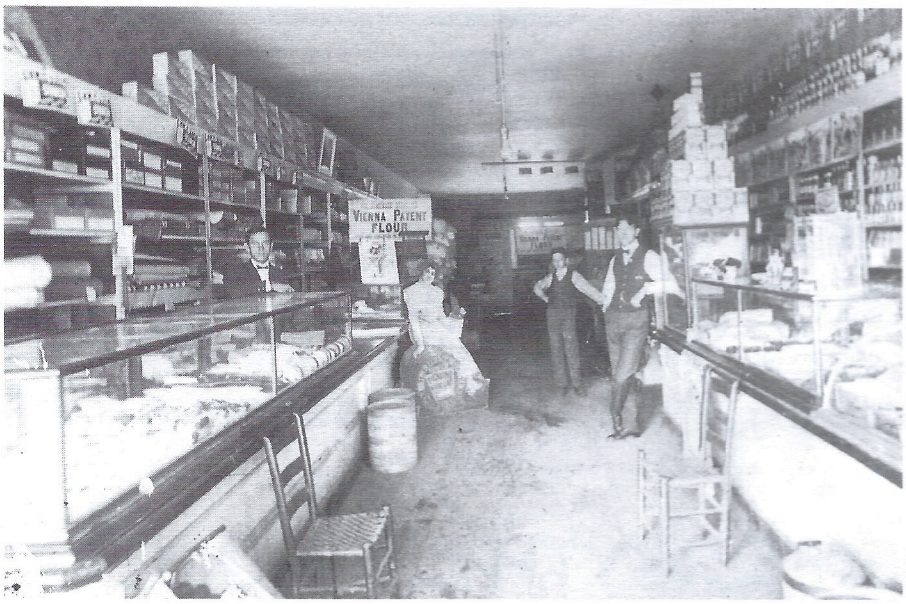


1920's era Hippard/Schroeder Grocers l-r unknown, Wes Bowman, Ted Schroeder, unknown. Courtesy of Larry Nix.

John M. Persinger (1837-1900) was born in Shelby County, Ohio. He came to Maroa in 1867 and married Sarah Beck. They had one son, Rolland. Mr. Persinger was a hardware and implement dealer.



Main Street in Maroa in the 1960's.



Hippard/Schroeder Grocers was the place to be. Ted Schroeder on the left behind the counter, and two unknown employees. Cir 1920's. Courtesy of Larry Nix.

Martin Auction Company

Larry Martin, Stan Irvin, Rob Norb, Auctioneers

We sell *everything* on the Earth

Clinton, IL Phone: 935-8211

TIDBIT

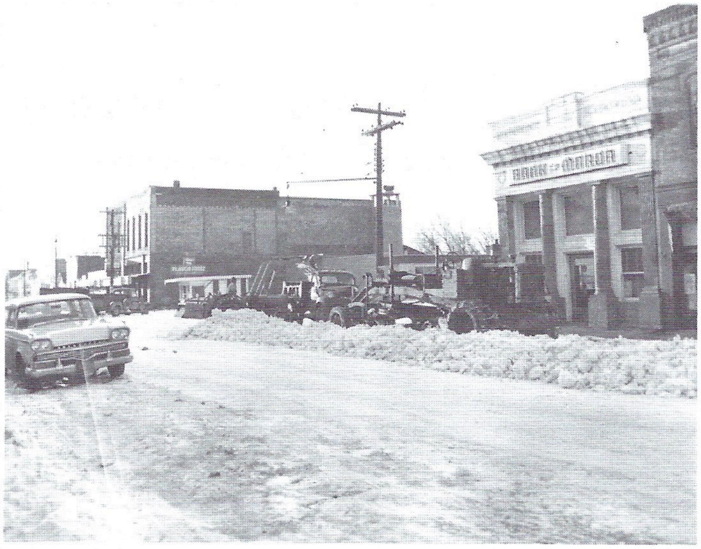
Dad kept up with modern development by reading and discussing things with my brothers, Edwin and Franklin, who also were Doctors. He also bought a car when they were common place, and learned to drive, but he never liked to drive himself. He always hired someone to drive for him. Sometimes they had to take the fenders off the car in the winter so they could get through the mud without getting stuck.

Louise Gentle (McLean) Age: 108 in January 2000

TIDBIT

My father made a lot of house calls, because there were few hospitals in the late 1800's. He'd drive out, or ride to the country and always kept two horses in the barn behind the house. He usually rode horses in the winter, because the med was deep on the roads. When he went out on confinement (pregnancy) cases, he often would stay overnight with the woman until the baby came. His charge for delivering a baby was $10. When he was honored by the Macon County Medical Society for 50 years of service in 1938, he estimated the number of babies he delivered at more than 3,000. He charged $1 for a house call and 50 cents for every mile he had to travel to get there. Medicines came mostly from bottles and the charge was 75 cents or $1 a bottle for his remedies.

Louise Gentle (McLean) Age: 108 in January 2000



Getting the snow out of the middle of Main street on a snowy day can be a challenge. In this 1960's era picture shows the method. February 25, 1960, not a day to try to get down Main Street as this snow can attest. Courtesy of Larry Nix.

LAVOR FREEZ
Maroa
POLICE

Ezydore Halicki in 1966 taken in front of the old firehouse.

TIDBIT

What are you most looking forward to with the upcoming celebration on September 17 - 19? The pictorial display at the M & M and the history room at the Grade School. I've seen bits and pieces but to see it all put together in one place will be awesome! It would be nice to have a room at the old grade school on a permanent basis to house all the historical information we've gathered. Sesquicentennial committee member Sharon Woolum Age: 47

Congratulations Maroa on 150 years of progress.

FORSYTH

VILLAGE OF FORSYTH, ILLINOIS

A Flashback to 1972

The photos on this page and the excerpts to the left first appeared in an article published in the Decatur Herald & Review in 1972. They are reprinted here with their permission.

Dr. W. L. Terrell M.D.

In 1946, a young physician named Woodrow Terrell, driving a borrowed car, drove through Maroa on his way to Chicago for a visit and a few months later he was back as one of the town's doctors. He was given an empty grain office for his first office. For six months it was rent-free; then he was charged $20 a month. His practice grew over the years, drawing patients from Maroa, Forsyth, Kenney, Weldon, Argenta, Oreana, Clinton and Decatur.

When he first started, there were no appointment hours; they began in 1960. He stopped delivering babies in 1968 after bringing "about a thousand people into the world" by his estimate.

Clara Kraft of Clinton, who's been with the doctor for 17 years, and. Shirley Wentworth of Maroa handle all of the paperwork.

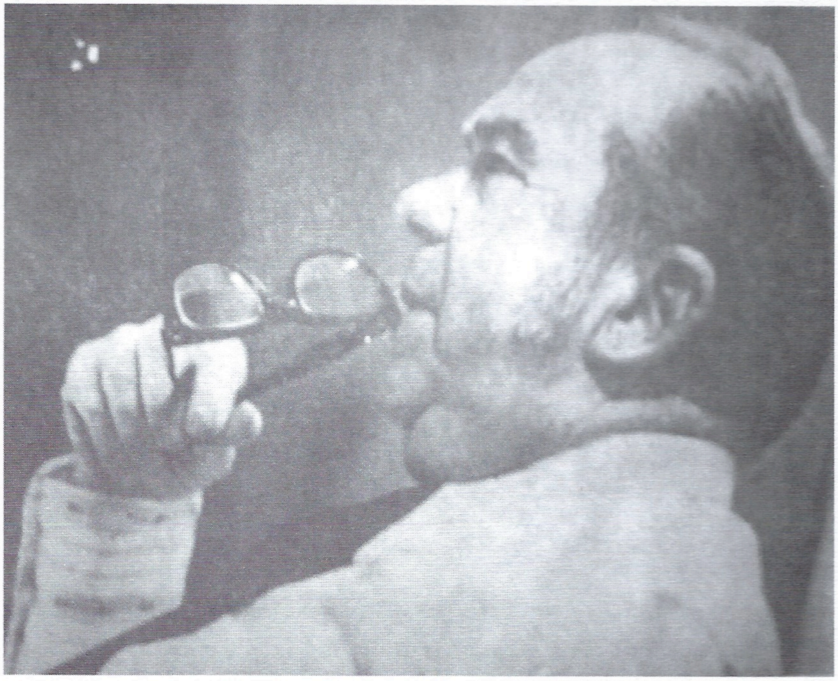
Laughing and joking and visiting, he works his way through each day, a patient at a time and a friend every minute.

"I like people. My wife says I'm too nosy, that I want to know about people's relatives and their grandchildren. But you do that in a country practice and I'm proud of it."

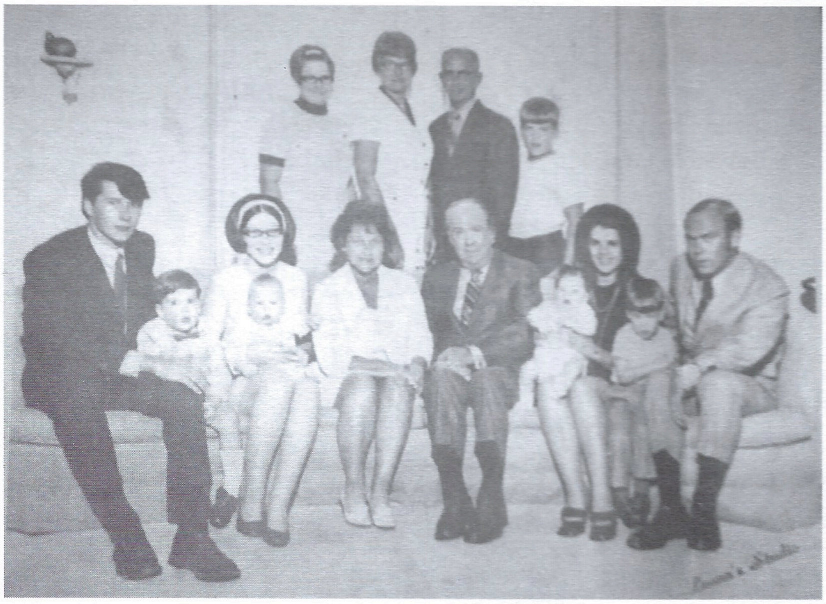
Besides being the town doctor, Dr.. Terrell also served as mayor for several years.

Talk turns to the reception for Dr. and Mrs. Terrell planned at the high school. "I don't think the community owes me anything," he says. "I've lived well and raised a family; what more can I ask?"

HIs daily routine begins with a trip to Decatur Memorial Hospital to check on his patients. "I used to make it from my front door to DMH in 15 minutes," Dr. Terrell recalls.



"Medicine has changed a lot. When I first started I began work at 6 a.m., grab a quick bite for lunch, and usually work through dinner until 11 or midnight. At that time there were no office hours. It was on a first come, first served basis."



Dr. and Mrs. Terrell are shown with their three children and families in this 1972 photo taken by Luann Query of Luann's Studio. Rear: Glen and wife Betty (Ater) Terrell with Gail and Greg. Seated, left to right, Paul Pulliam and wife Stephanie (Terrell) with P.J. and Wade; Mrs. W. L. Terrell (Olma) and Dr. W. L Terrell; Ronnie Terrell and wife Linda (Balogna), Richard and Lance.

DR. WOODROW TERRELL

At a Thank you party for Dr. Woodrow Terrell on July 16, 1995 at Maroa City Hall. Some of the following were some memories of that wonderful event.

Dr. W. L Terrell says he never turned anyone away when they needed medical care—not once during the 49 years he practiced medicine in Maroa.

He remembers how one patient fretted because she had no cash. "She told me, 'doc, I don't want you to take care of me for nothing'. So she brought me a chicken." He can't remember exactly what he did with the chicken, but he knows he treated the woman.

This is the type of memory the 82 year-old Terrell will take with him when he moves to Texas, where he plans to fish and play golf. But first, his friends and patients crowded into Maroa City Hall on Sunday afternoon to show their appreciation for his service.

He was Maroa's Mayor from 1965 -1977 and he was elected again in 1985. Was that a fulfilling experience? "At the time, I thought it was. But now I don't see how I did it - it could be a headache. When I ran toward the end, some other people put me on the ballot. I voted for the other guy."

Born in Kentucky, Terrell opened his office, which was converted from an old grain elevator office, in 1946. He served in the Army until then and was considering settling in Clinton when three community leaders from Maroa coaxed him here

.

He charged $3 for each office call in those early days, "These young squirts (doctors) would laugh about that today," he said. In the past, Terrell has been tagged a country doctor, a description he enjoyed. " I liked being in a small town. I got so much backing from the people, young and old. The people in this town are very appreciative."

Terrell said his health, specifically hypertension, prompted his decision to retire. He says the residents of Maroa should see someone take over his practice. But until the final details are worked out, he does not want to divulge further information. Terrell and his first wife, Ohna, were the parents of three children.

A widower in his 60s, he found himself attracted to Mardie Earl, a nurse in his office. "She and I got along just fine. I respected her, and she was very honest. I asked her to marry me and she said," I'll think about it'. I wanted a quicker answer, so she told me yes.

Mardie, who is 40 years younger than Terrell, laughingly recalls more of the details. "He told me he wanted an answer because he wasn't getting any younger." The marriage has worked, she said. I knew he was a good man. I could see how he treated his patients.

She's aware the age difference was likely a topic of town conversation.

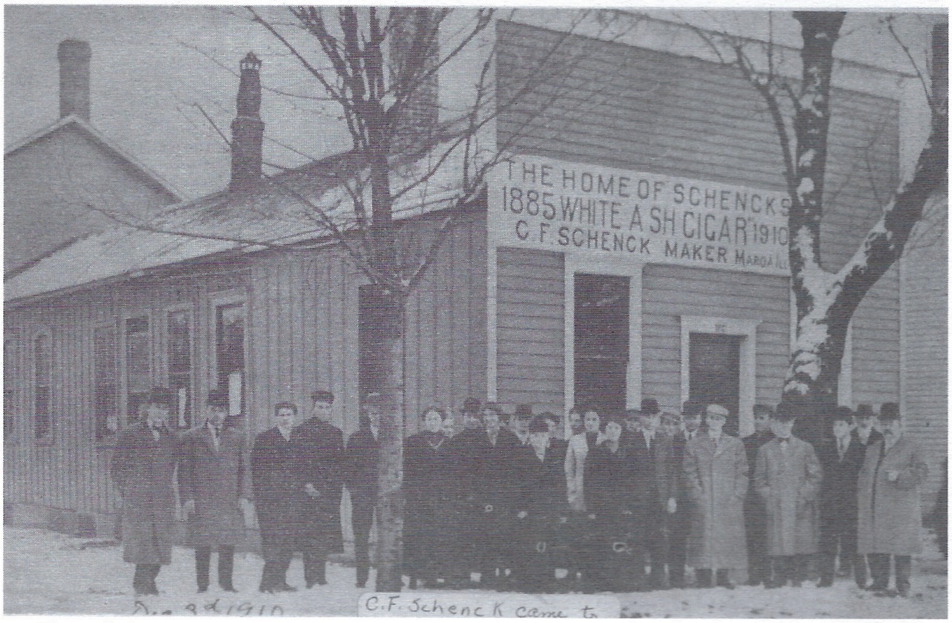
"I know when we went into restaurants people would wonder if I was his wife or daughter. But people in town knew me from his office. Everything has been fine, and it has been good for 16 1/2 years.

Vi Lienhart of Maroa thanks Dr Woodrow Terrell on the Community Thank You Day at Maroa City Hall. After 49 years of being the town doctor, he retired. The town had a big thank you party July 16, 1995.

C. F. SCHENCK AND EMPLOYEES OF CIGAR COMPANY, AN EARLY MAROA INDUSTRY

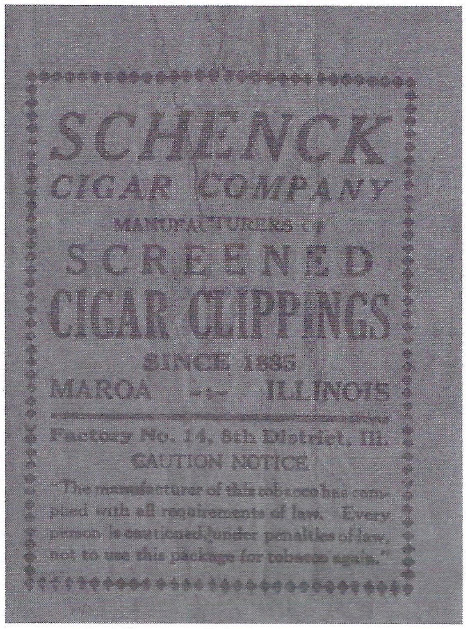
By F. L. Sibthorp - This article taken from the Praire Post

Maroa at one time had a factory that employed more people than any industry the village had known previous to that time or any time since. This was the Schenck Cigar Co. which was started on a small scale when Charles F. Schenck came to Maroa from the state of Ohio in 1882 and from 1887 until 1891 it was known as the Schenck and McLung factory and was located on Main Street, about where the El Roa Tavern is now located. In 1891 the factory burned and following that Mr. Schenck purchased a building on North Walnut St., a few doors north of the Bank of Maroa. The building was remodeled and enlarged for the use of the company.



This is 'The Home of Schenck's White Ash Cigar. Taken in 1910. The location was on North Walnut Street

The business was incorporated in 1910 and Carl D. Schenck and W. Lee Kempshall were taken as partners in the firm. Mr. Kempshall, the only remaining member of the firm, recalls: "I was told that cigar making would be a trade that would always holdup because they were certain that no machine could perform the delicate job of making cigars using such thin tobacco leaf", and for a time this statement was absolutely right.



SCHENCK
CIGAR COMPANY
MANUFACTURERS OF
SCREENED
CIGAR CLIPPINGS
SINCE 1885
MAROA -:- ILLINOIS

Factory No. 14, 8th District, Ill.
CAUTION NOTICE
"The manufacturer of this tobacco has complied with all requirements of law. Every person is cautioned under penalties of law, not to use this package for tobacco again."

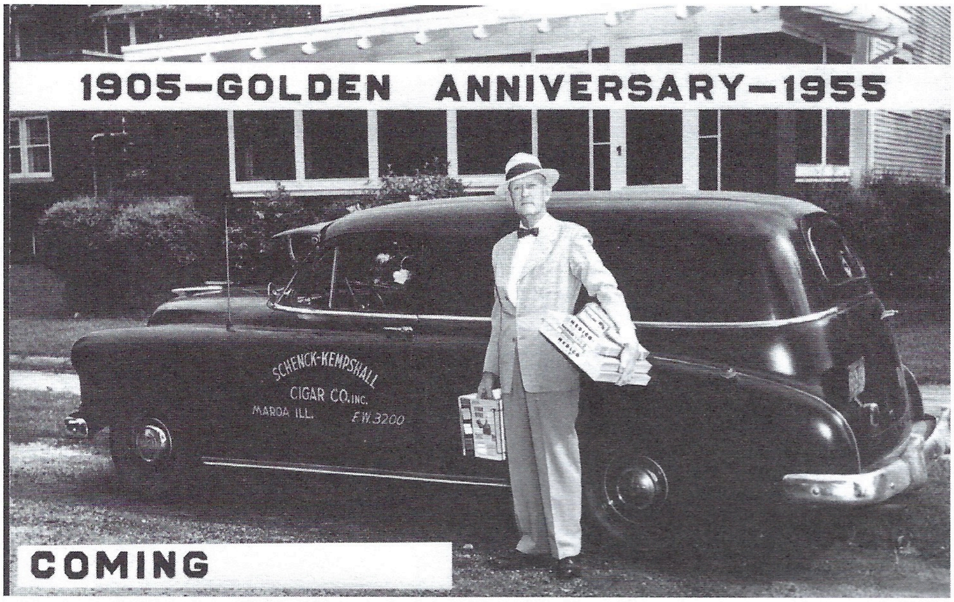
A bag for your Schenk Cigar Factory clippings c. 1900. Courtesy of Larry Nix.

For many years Schenck cigars were one of the leading brands in Central Illinois and the factory employed 35 men and women and turned out 2,000,000 handmade cigars annually and its salesmen covered a territory of 18 counties. C.F. Schenck died in 1933 and Carl D. Schenck and Lee Kempshall continued the business.

"White Ash" was probably the most popular brand manufactured by the firm, but other brands manufactured were "Boquet", "Little Beauty" and "Schenck Smokers", and sales totaled 45,000 to 50,000 cigars a week. Four of the employees were experts who made cigars completely by hand while others used molds to shape cigars and complete the job with wrappers.

The Maroa cigar factory was national known as using Ohio Zimmer, Pennsylvania Broadleaf, Connecticut, and Havana, Cuba tobacco. Connecticut Shadegrown (tobacco grown under canvas) and Wisconsin tobacco were used as binders. The Connecticut tobacco and Sumatra leaf were used

The Schenck family home taken circa 1900.



Getting ready for their golden anniversary, Mr. Kempshall gets another shipment of their fine cigars ready for transportation.

as wrappers. The Sumatra tobacco cost $4.75 a pound of which $2.25 was import duty. Most of the tobacco used by the firm was purchased from a tobacco house in St. Louis.

In 1952 Mr. Schenck sold his interest to L.J. Kloppenburg of Springfield, Illinois, but the firm continued business under the name of Schenck-Kempshall Cigar Co., with Lee Kempshall as President and L.J. Kloppenburg as Secretary-Treasurer.

Members of the firm saw their first cigar-making machines at the Chicago World's Fair and at that time it took four girls to operate a machine but later they were made so only two girls were required and they could turn out 8,000 cigars per day while the old-time cigar maker turned out 350 to 400 a day. The machines were quite expensive, each machine costing around $7,000 and two machines were required and in addition an expert serviceman was required and the company that manufactured the machines charged a royalty.

With the mechanical age creeping up on them, Mr. Schenck did not care to go into that line and gradually quit cigar making and turned to jobbing of machined products about 1954, and its books show that one order of a Peoria firm was for 50,000 cigars with other orders from various firms for lesser amounts. In 1957 the firm of Kempshall and Kloppenburg was dissolved by mutual agreement and the business was continued by these two gentlemen as separate firms and in 1954, Lee Kempshall is still wholesaling cigars and other smoker sundries, covering a territory of eight counties. His picture appears at the extreme left in the group.

An interesting item is told by Mr. Kempshall that it is necessary to have both a left hand and a right hand machine as there are both left and right handed cigars so that the veins in the wrapper would be underneath. Mr. Kempshall came to work at the cigar factory at the age of 17 in 1900 and continued to work there until the firm closed.

Some of the cigars manufactured/hand made by the Schenck cigar factory of Maroa from 1885-1925
Schenck's White Ash
Schenck's Stub
Schenck's Bouquet
Schenck's Sunshine 1907
Schenck's little beauty
Schenck's Pride
Schenck's Smoker
Schenck's Carload *
Schenck's Londora*
Schenck's Straight tip
Schenck's Alpine rose
Schenck's Daylight special
Schenck's Gold seal
Schenck's Home comfort
Schenck's Esplanade 1907
Schenck's Nicko
Schenck's Darlings

Retailed after 1925 after home production was discontinued 1925-1955
Royalists Dukes
Factory Smoker
Van Dam
Flour DeLeon
San Felice
Emmerson
Besco
El Macco
Bulk Specials
Lee's Crooks
Schenck's improved White Ash (30% Havana)

The factory continued to sack cigar clippings. The tobacco was shipped in after home manufacture of cigars stopped. Courtesy of Larry Nix.

NEWSPAPER INFORMATION UPDATE:

Newspapers of Maroa

The Maroa Times
January 1867 – November 1867 T. J. Sharp, Publisher

The Tablet
February 1, 1868 Mr. DeLay, Clinton
Only a few issues printed.

The Maroa Tribune
February 1869 – March 1871 A. H. Corman, Decatur

The Maroa News
April 1872 Henry B. Funk
Sold to Axton and Jones in May 1875. Changed hands several times.

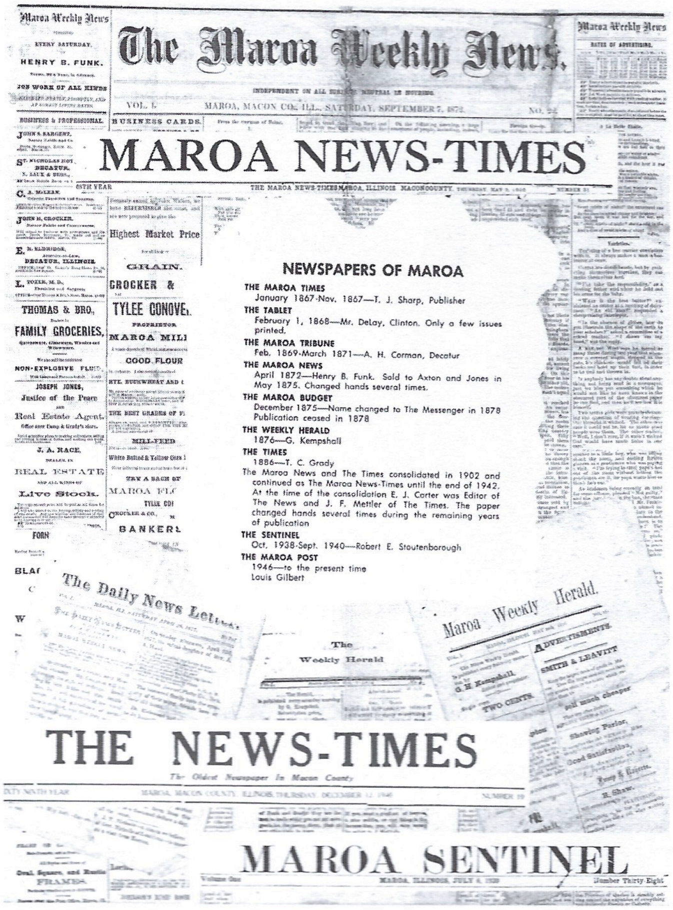
The Maroa Budget
December 1875
Name changed to The Messenger in 1878. Publication ceased in 1878

The Weekly Herald
1876 G. Kempshall

The Times
1886 T. C. Grady
The Maroa News and The Times consolidated in 1902 and continued as The Maroa News-Times until the end of 1942. At the time of consolidation, E. J. Carter was Editor of The News and J. F. Mettler of the Times. The paper changed hands several times during the remaining years of publication. One of the publishers during this time was Ruth Conolly. Ruth wrote the articles for the paper and then took the interurban north to Heyworth to the printer.

The Sentinel
October 1938 – September 1940 Robert E. Stoutenborough

The Maroa Post
1946 — 1956 Louis Gilbert



Maroa Weekly News
The Maroa Weekly News.
MAROA NEWS-TIMES
The Daily News Letter
The Weekly Herald
Maroa Weekly Herald.
THE NEWS-TIMES
The Oldest Newspaper In Macon County
MAROA SENTINEL

NEWSPAPERS OF MAROA

THE MAROA TIMES
January 1867-Nov. 1867—T. J. Sharp, Publisher
THE TABLET
February 1, 1868—Mr. DeLay, Clinton. Only a few issues printed.
THE MAROA TRIBUNE
Feb. 1869-March 1871—A. H. Corman, Decatur
THE MAROA NEWS
April 1872—Henry B. Funk. Sold to Axton and Jones in May 1875. Changed hands several times.
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THE SENTINEL
Oct. 1938-Sept. 1940—Robert E. Stoutenborough
THE MAROA POST
1946—to the present time
Louis Gilbert

Newspapers in Maroa.

The Prairie Post
1958 – 1974 Robert E. Wilson Publisher
Robert E. Wilson was the publisher until his death in 1972. His widow Eva Wilson continued the publication of the paper until the paper was bought by Joe Rickard of the Banner Times from Mason City. The Prairie Post ceased publication in 1989.

City Newsletter
Fall 1991
Occasional newsletters put out by the City of Maroa.

Oct 1994 – April 1997 Debbie Melton Publisher
Bi-monthly newsletter funded by the City of Maroa.

The Maroa News
May 1997 – present Joy Gardner and Amy Lopez
Bi-monthly newsletter funded by the City of Maroa and advertisers with a distribution of 1100 within the city of Maroa and 90 out of town subscribers as of the September 2004 issue.

Special awards from the Centennial, Mr. and Mrs. George Hunt and daughter, Jennifer Sue. Mr. Hunt won third in "Fanciest Beard". Mrs. Hunt won third in "Ladies Fanciest Costume" and Jennifer Sue won first in "Girls Oldest Costume" (Preschool)

Special awards from the Centennial, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Friis are the couple who have lived the longest in the same house - 55 years.

Special awards from the Centennial, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Odle won the award for the couple with the most children.

Mr. and Mrs. William McGuire, Grandparents of William C. McGuire.

O. J. Harlan, member of the first Board of Directors.

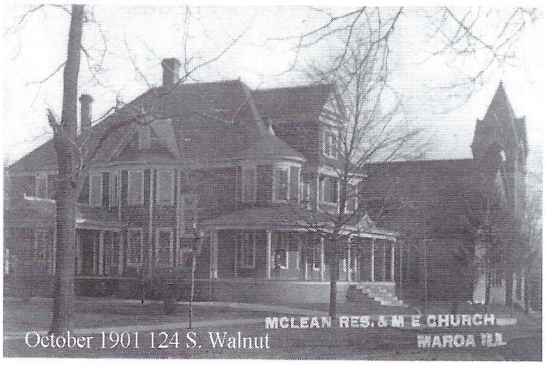
M. D. Brown's residence 529 East Washington. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.

Special awards from the Centennial, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Gardner. Mr. Gardner won third in "Beard that tried the Hardest".

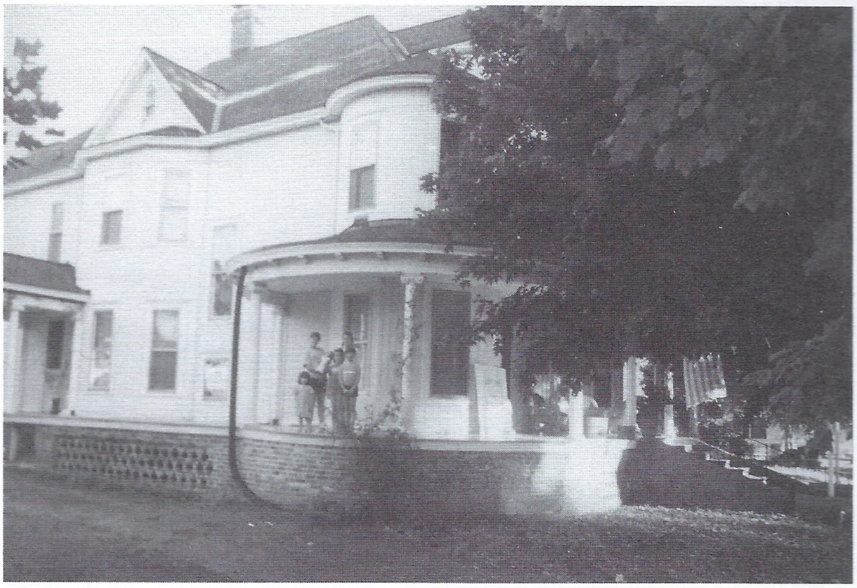
Mary Stoutenborough and Harmon E. Likens.

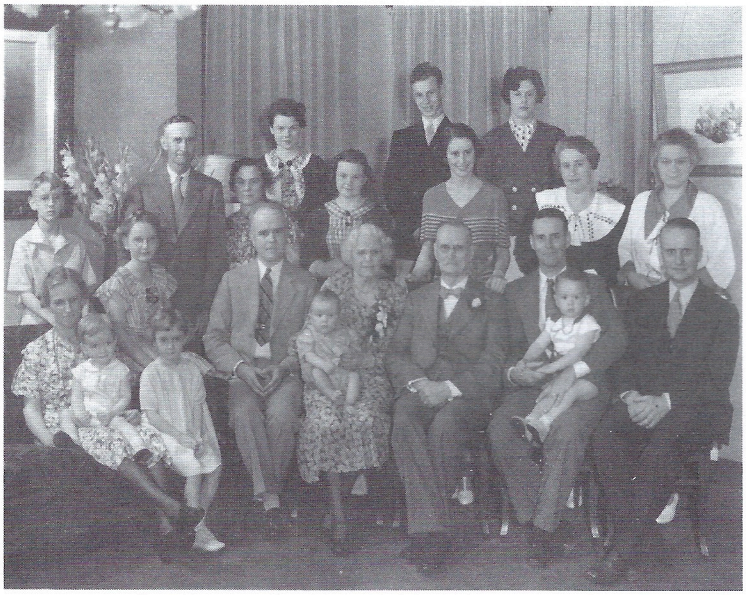
Special awards from the Centennial, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Fathauer, Dale, Unice and Lavina. Mr. Fathauer won second in "Most Distinguished Beard", third in "Sideburns", second in "Whitest Beard".

124 South Walnut Street Memorial Page


October 1901 124 S. Walnut

The more things change


In 2004 left to right, Elyse Ramirez, Natalie Ramirez holding Therese, Mary Ramirez, Rachel Ramirez, and behind Rachel, is Karissa Dean.


October 1935 Family anniversary celebration l-r back: Gertrude McLean Denson, Billy McLean, Jean McLean Blance.
Next row: Paul Gentle, George Gentle, Jesse Smith McLean, Francis McLean Tipton,
Harriet McLean Moore, Zella Hostettler McLean, Helen Vincent McLean.
Seated: Louise McLean Gentle, Bob Gentle, Mary Gentle Holtsclaw, Dorothy Gentle Ellinwood, Edwin McLean,
Vincent McLean, Margaret Crocker McLean, William T. McLean, John McLean, 'Duke' Blance, Franklin McLean.

The more they stay the same.

The Ramirez are glad
that we were fortunate enough
that Godís path for us found us in
Maroa, Illinois.

Congratulations on your *150*th birthday.

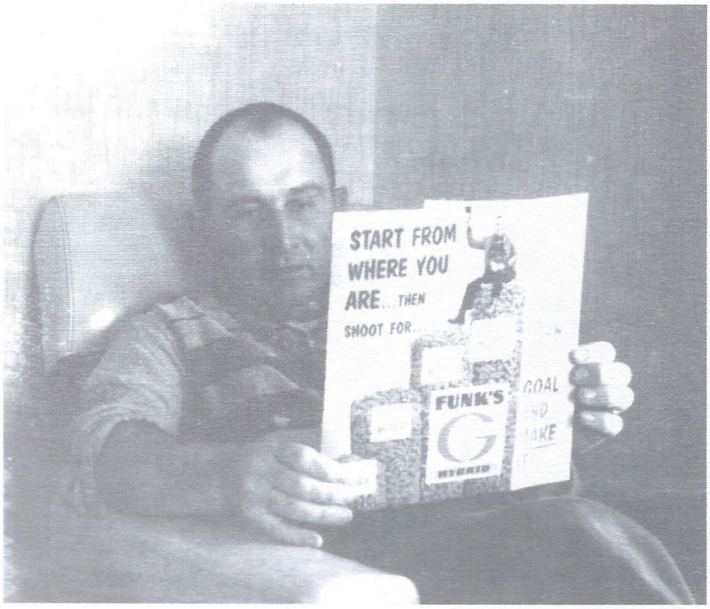
2004 Therese Baptism celebration
l-r Ray holding Elyse, Rachel, Mary, Kelly holding Therese.
Natalie in back.

A LOOK BACK AT FARMING FROM THE CENTENNIAL YEAR - JACK HILL

JACK HILL is a retired former in July 2004. We asked him to recall farming during the Centennial year, and childhood.

"We lived on my great Uncle Charlie's farm east of town" said Jack Hill who now resides in Maroa. We had no electricity until 1943 – my uncle thought it to be too much expense. The poles were set but we waited another couple of years before we finally got electricity. When I was 5 or 6 years old my job was to haul water to the men who were on the threshing run. My sister, Laura and I would run the pony cart and we made 50 cents a day . I attended the American School (a country school east of Maroa) for 8 years. Sometimes there were only about 4 students in the entire school and after World War II started in '41, we couldn't get teachers so the school system decided to send senior girls from the high school in Maroa to teach us. We had eleven teachers in one year. Mrs. Daisy Gossman then came to teach and she was the best teacher we ever had.

I then went to Maroa High School where Mr. Nicol was the coach and Agriculture teacher. He also led the 4-H Club I was in and I showed Angus cattle and Hampshire hogs at the county and state fair. My wife, Kathy remembers sitting on the show trunk at the fair." As Kathy said, "Those were our dating years."


START FROM WHERE YOU ARE... THEN SHOOT FOR...
GOAL
AND MAKE
FUNK'S
G
HYBRID

This picture depicts Jack Hill looking at the options for the Funk seeds options. There are no such options in 2004 under the Funks seed label.

From 1950 to 1954, Jack was in the Air Force. Upon returning from his duty, he and Kathy were married. . They celebrate their 50th this year. 2004. He began to farm for himself and bought his first new piece of machinery – a International 3-bottom plow - which he says wasn't really a very good plow. He farmed 340 acres and used Minneapolis tractors, raised corn, hay, oats and

The Jack Hill family in 2004 picture in front of the Church.

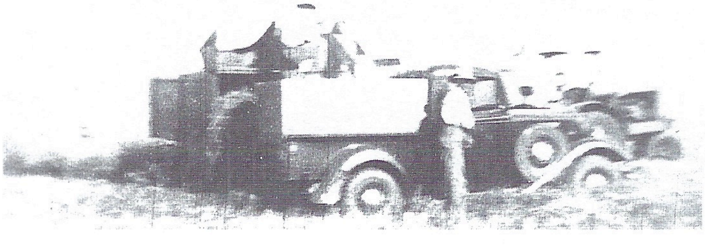
This 1962 picture shows Jack Hill on an Oliver tractor. In front of the tractor are his sons, Curt and Craig.

wheat and soybeans.. In the early 60's he also sold Funk's seed corn which is now no longer available. He served on the elevator board with what he called very good, intelligent men and that was an honor for him. When the elevator burned in 1964, he then got to see the new elevator built.

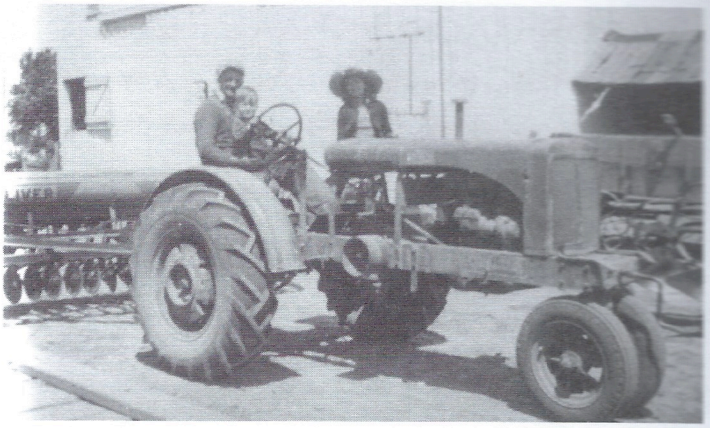
In 1962, his father, Ambrose quit farming and Jack bought his father's machinery for the sum of $7900.
In 1994, Jack retired from farming and sold to his son Craig, his machinery, as an appraisal sale, in the amount of $150,000. This reveals the change in farming over a period of 30 years.
"And " says Jack, "the trend in farming has changed so much more in the last 10 years.'

Outside buyers are coming in and purchasing land. And land prices are going up – now reaching much over $3000 per acre. An acre of land could have been purchased in the 50's for around $600 per acre. What is so ironic is that a bushel of corn now will bring about the same amount of money as it did 30 to 40 years ago.

Although the farmer has faced difficulties – weather, prices, high costs, etc., Jack will still say, " We've had a good life – we had a close family – we loved to camp and have fun together." Jack and Kathy have four children, Craig, Curt, Chuck and Bonnie.



International Truck in 1930



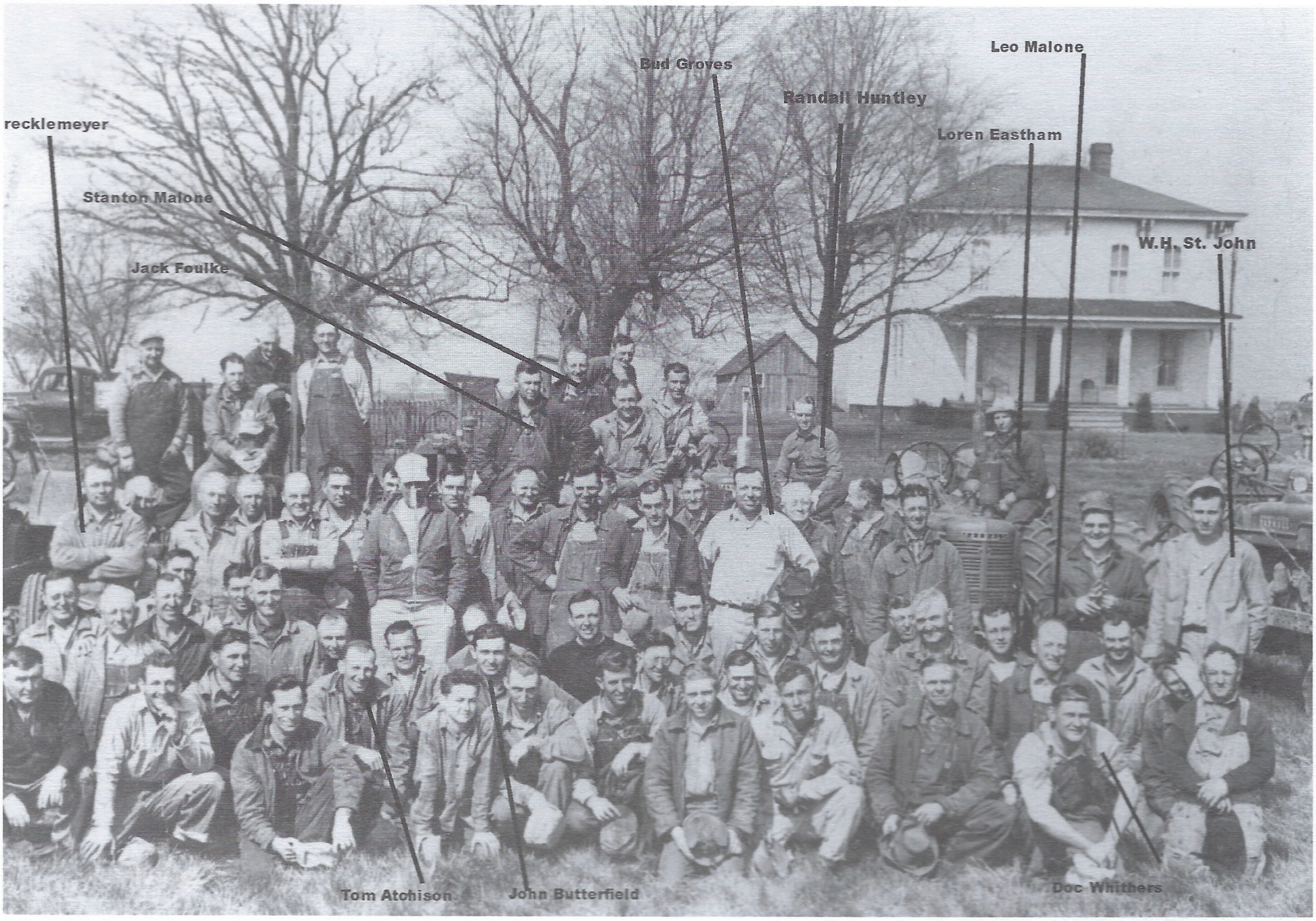
John Shoemaker, Sharon Hilt Johnson, Joe L. Hilt in front of barn 1940's.

Steel Tractor in 1930.

Baling Hay in 1944.

1945 Clayton Manure Scoop

Picture of farmer combining oats in 1930.

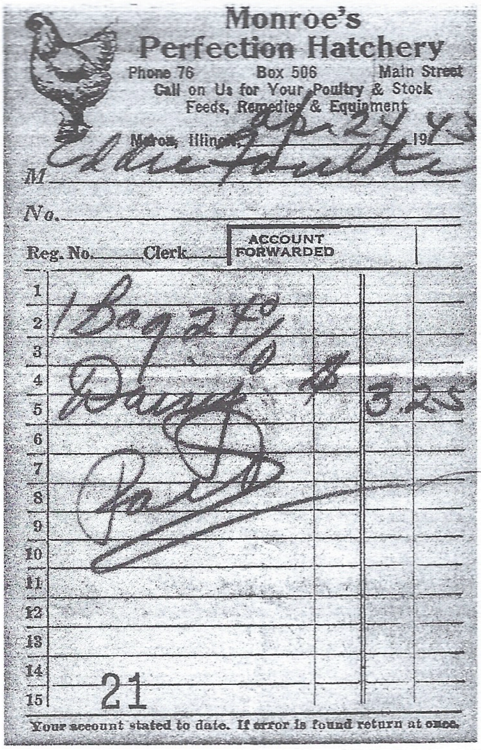


This picture was taken at Homer Mouser farm. He died of cancer, and the neighbors came in and plowed for Harold Thomas that year. With the 2 or 3 bottom plows that were available at that time, some tractors did not even get to come back to work. All of these farmers were within Maroa Township.

TIDBITS

I remember the fire, when I was 21, that swept the south Walnut block. It started in the Shellabarger elevator and burned two houses, a church and two warehouses before fire departments from Maroa, Decatur, and Clinton were able to put the fire out. I remember carrying household items outside because we thought the house would surely go up in flames. Strong winds saved the home in addition to the fire departments.
Louise Gentle (McLean) Age: 108 in January 2000

Chambers A McLean came to Maroa to teach school, leaving his family in Harrison County, Kentucky. In April 1865, he moved his wife, Lucy, and 6 year old son, William, to Maroa. Chambers McLean continued to teach school until 1870, when he began the practice of medicine. William followed in his father's footsteps graduating from the University of Illinois and then Rush Medical College in Chicago. After graduating in 1881, William returned to Maroa to practice with is father.
Louise Gentle (McLean) Age: 88 in November 1980.



Monroe's
Perfection Hatchery
Phone 76 Box 506 Main Street
Call on Us for Your Poultry & Stock
Feeds, Remedies & Equipment

Maroa, Illinois Ap 24 1943

M Eddie Foulke

No.

Reg. No. Clerk ACCOUNT FORWARDED

1			
2	1 Bag 24%		
3			
4	Dairy	$	3.25
5			
6			
7	Paid		
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15	21		

Your account stated to date. If error is found return at once.

The Monroe hatchery 1943 receipt for Eddie Foulke. There were so many hatcheries to serve your needs in Maroa at that time.

FARMERS – WHERE WE WERE 50 YEARS AGO

R. HAROLD JOHNSON

My Dad helped me and my family start farming. I was born and raised on a good farm. In my early years my folk's Model "T" gave out; so our go-to-town mode was a horse and buggy. When I started to grade school, Dad had prospered enough to buy a new 1926 Model "T". My first job to be of help on the farm consisted of cultivating corn. At the age of 10, I was given a one row cultivator and a very gentle team of horses to do my part.

Just 50 years ago, I was establishing myself southwest of Maroa in a very modest way. As I remember, the decade before – many of my age group had been serving in the armed forces. The average farm size was from 160 to 240 acres. Land was trading from between $300 and $500 per acre. That price seemed very high so most of us rented the land from owners, using a 50/50 crop share lease.

In the late "40's" the corn was planted with 2-row horse-drawn planters using a check wire. This enabled the corn to be cultivated two ways, three times, the second time the corn was crossed, third time it was "laid-by".

By 1954 the 4-row planter was gaining popularity. When harvest came, the corn was harvested in the ear. The 2-row picker was used to harvest the corn - a great improvement over shucking by hand. The corn was stored in slatted cribs. This allowed the corn to dry, preventing spoilage.

The mechanical picker was an unforgiving device. Many an operator lost hands or limbs in their haste to unplug a stopped-up machine. The crib full of ear corn was shelled by custom services.

Many farmers fed their production to the livestock they raised. Most all farmers had livestock, at least two or three milk cows for the family's needs. There were some dairy farms. The introduction of the milking machine encouraged the farmer to have more cows; thereby, he could have milk to sell. Grade "A" milk sales required high standards of cleanliness. Milk coolers and milking machines required electricity. Corn-Belt Coop established electric lines through out the farm community. This made country living up-to-date .Due to the advancement in technology in the past 50 years, we see a large difference in the farm crops grown today.

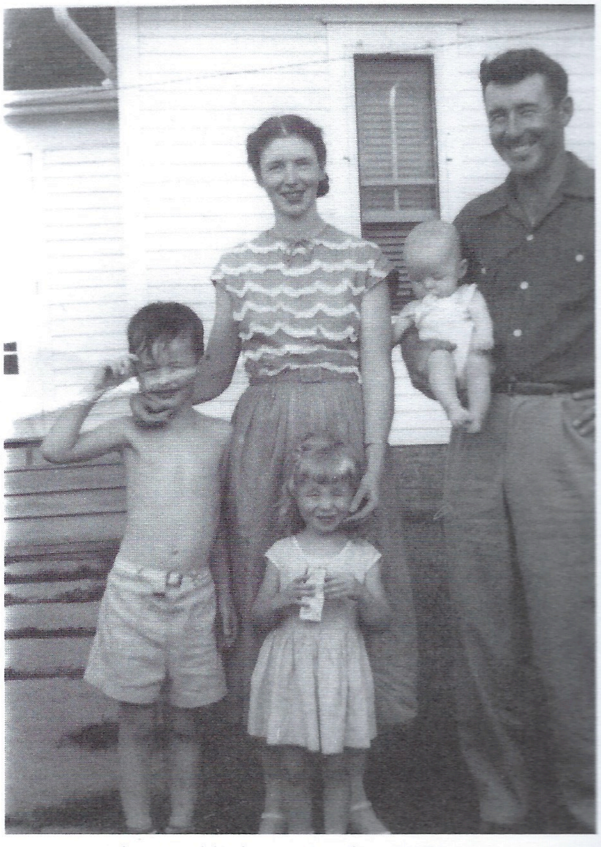
Technology in the past 50 years helped the farm crops grown today possible. Fifty years ago hybrid corn was accepted. Yields went from 60 bu. To 100 bu. Per acre. With proper fertilizer today, farms yield an average of 180 bu. Per acre.

Today with the advances on the farm, changes in education have also occurred. In the 40's and 50's in the rural area, one room schools were the norm. School was closed for the summer months on May 1. Farm boys were beginning to have more than an 8th grade education. Today it's not uncommon for the farm operator to be a college graduate.

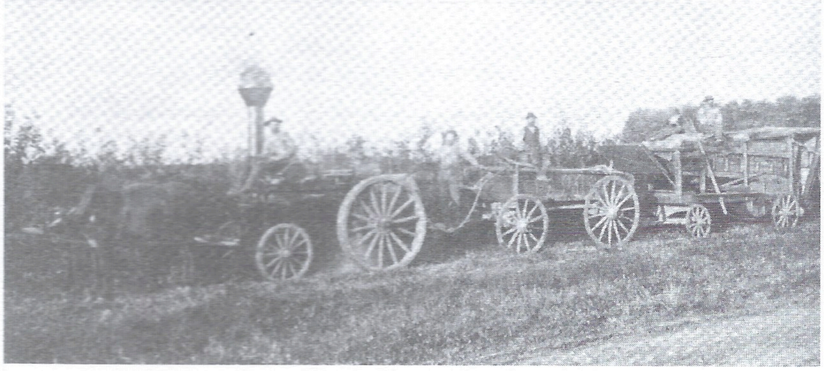
Fifty years ago many of the farm activities were neighborhood affairs. These included: butchering, haymaking, corn shelling, and if a neighbor had to move, help was there. The farm wife was very much a part of the operation. Seldom did she have an off-farm job.

My challenging years was 1950. That year was the year of the Great Drought. Many fields of corn were not worth harvesting; yield of 10 to 15 bu. Per acre. It was the year the grasshoppers were so bad. I had a field of alfalfa that produced a meager lst cutting. The 2nd cutting the grasshoppers took over.

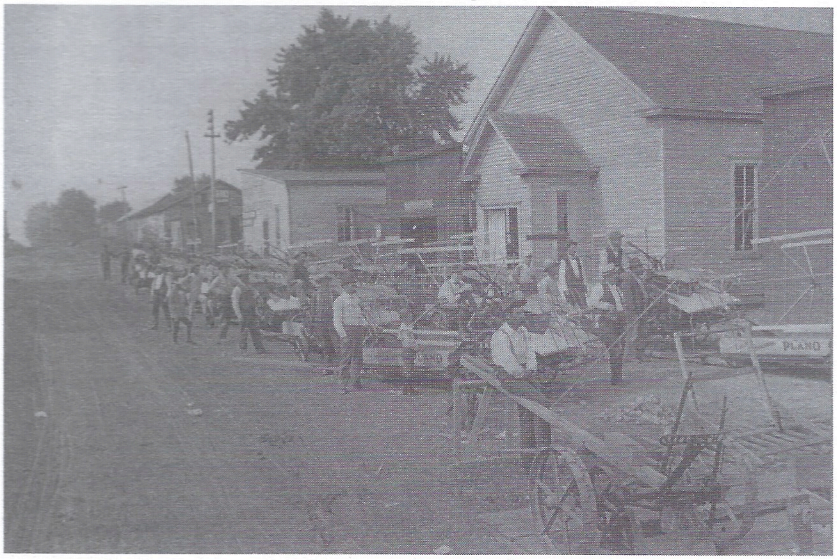
My happiest year in the past 50 was in 1971. That year, my son, Steve came home from serving his year in Vietnam. He returned without being wounded. This was an answer to lots of prayers.



The Harold Johnson Family in 1954.
Ada and Harold Johnson with children, Steve, Margo and Louie.



Mule drawn threshing outfit.



Main street in Maroa looking east during a farm progress show circa 1900. Photo courtesy of M&M Café

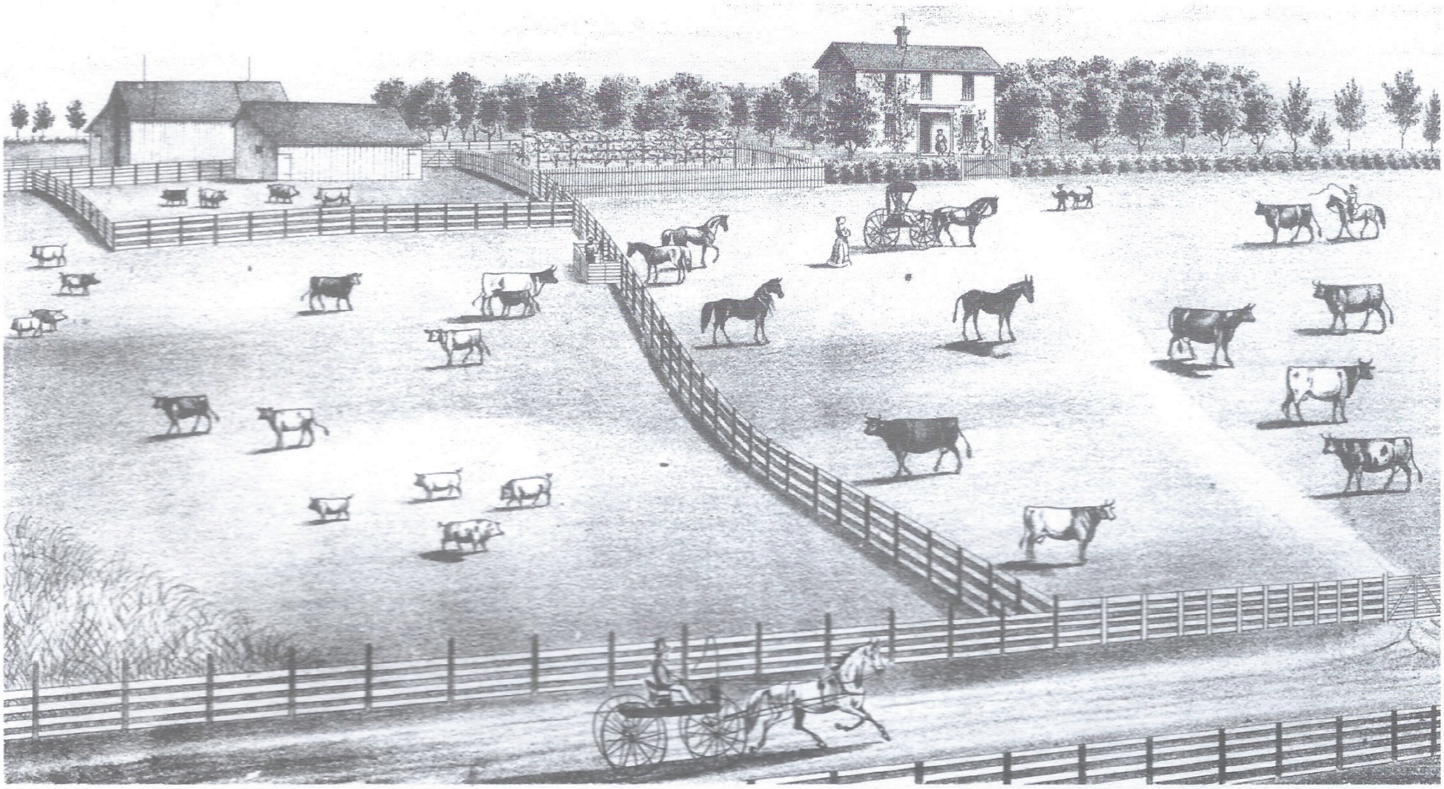
CARAMEL POPCORN

6 quarts popped corn
1/2 cup water
1 cup molasses
1 teaspoon vinegar
1 cup brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon soda
2 tablespoons butter
2 cups white sugar

Mix molasses, sugar and water, boil until hard ball stage is reached. Add butter and vinegar; boil 30 seconds longer. Add soda in teaspoon of hot water. Spread popped corn thinly in a shallow pan. Pour syrup over very slowly and stir until every kernel is well coated. Take to a cool place and continue to stir until they are dried.

THE POPCORN FARM
MAROA, ILLINOIS

A recipe from popcornfarm.
Submitted by Loreeta Clifton.



This house still stands on the "Popcorn Farm" owned by Catherine (Miller) Hunt one mile south of town in Section 13.

MACON COUNTY. CITIES & TOWNS
MAROA

1854 1954

Maroa, Illinois Centennial

September 23-24-25

PROGRAM FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

TIME	EVENT	PLACE
10:00 A.M.	Tolling of Bells Opening Headquarters	
10:15 A.M.	Candy Kiss Scramble (Pre-school Age Children)	Grade School
10:30 A.M.	Bicycle Race (Girls 7-10)—Prizes $3, $2, $1	Main Street
10:45 A.M.	Bicycle Race (Boys 7-10)—Prizes $3, $2, $1	Main Street
11:00 A.M.	Sack Race (Boys & Girls 6-9)—Prizes $3, $2, $1	Grade School
11:15 A.M.	Archery Contests (High School Girls)—Prizes $3, $2, $1	Grade School
	Golf Chipping Contest (High School Boys)—Prizes $3, $2, $1	Grade School
	Jacks Contest (Children up to 13)—Prizes $3, $2, $1	Grade School
12:00 Noon	Rooster Chase (Open)—Prize: Rooster	Grade School
	Antique Show—Prizes: Ribbons	Presbyterian Church
	Foot Races (Pre-school Age Children)—Prizes $2, $1	Grade School
	Carnival on Midway	Main Street
2:00 P.M.	Free Acts (Vaudeville)	Grade School
	Flower, Fruit & Vegetable Show	Community Building
4:00 P.M.	Fish Fry	Grade School
8:00 P.M.	Crowning of Kings and Queens of Yesteryear and Tomorrow	Grade School
	Special Awards: Oldest Resident Youngest baby Person residing the longest time in Maroa Centennial District Couple married the longest Couple lived the longest number of years in same house Native born couple who have been married the longest Most recent married couple Couple with the most children Family traveling longest distance Person traveling longest distance	
9:00 P.M.	Free Acts (Vaudeville)	Grade School
11:00 P.M.	Good Night	

PROGRAM FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

TIME	EVENT	PLACE
10:00 A.M.	Tolling of Bells Opening Headquarters	
10:15 A.M.	Bicycle Coasting Contest (Boys 11-13)—Prizes $3, $2	Grade School
10:30 A.M.	Bicycle Coasting Contest (Girls 11-13)—Prizes $3, $2	Grade School
10:45 A.M.	Hopscotch Contest (Children up to 13)—Prizes $3, $2	Grade School
11:00 A.M.	Doll Parade (Age limit 7)—Prizes: Prettiest Doll $2 Ugliest Doll $2 Most Unusual $2	Grade School
11:30 A.M.	Sling Shot Contest (Age limit 9)—Prizes $2, $1	Grade School
12:00 Noon	Football Throwing Contest (Boys)—Prizes $2, $1	Grade School
	Antique Show continued	Presbyterian Church
	Carnival continued	Main Street
12:30 P.M.	Basket Shooting Contest (High School Girls)—Prizes $3, $2, $1 (Grade School Girls)—Prizes $3, $2, $1 (High School Boys)—Prizes $3, $2, $1 (Grade School Boys)—Prizes $3, $2, $1	Grade School
1:00 P.M.	Hoop Rolling Contest—Prizes $2, $1	Grade School
2:00 P.M.	Free Acts (Vaudeville)	Grade School
7:00 P.M.	Judging Beards and Style Show—Prizes: Ribbons	Grade School

RULES AND CLASSIFICATIONS FOR THE STYLE AND BEARD SHOWS

All contestants must be residents of Maroa Centennial District
No false beards or imitations will be judged
*You cannot be judged in more than one classification

BEARDS

- Oldest man with beard
- Youngest man with beard
- Best trimmed beard
- Best non-trimmed beard
- Most distinguished
- Sideburns
- Moustache
- Goatee
- Abraham Lincoln type
- Fanciest beard
- Ugliest beard
- Longest beard
- The beard that tried the hardest
- The beard that did the least for the man
- The funniest beard
- Long hair and beard
- Whitest beard
- Reddest beard

STYLE SHOW

- Oldest baptismal gown
- Oldest baby dress
- Girl's oldest costume (Pre-school, grade school, high school)
- Boy's oldest costume (Pre-school, grade school, high school)
- Best dressed girl (Pre-school, grade school, high school)
- Best dressed boy (Pre-school, grade school, high school)
- Youngest girl in costume
- Youngest boy in costume

LADIES' COSTUME (All over high school age)

- Oldest woman in costume
- Dress of 100 years and over
- Dress of 75 years and over
- Dress of 50 years and over
- Dress of 25 years and over
- Fanciest Costume
- Simplest Costume
- Best dressed

MEN'S COSTUME (All over high school age)

- Oldest man in costume
- Youngest man in costume
- Fanciest costume
- Handsomest
- Best dressed

SPECIAL COSTUMES

- Wedding dresses
  - Oldest
  - Most beautiful old wedding dress
  - Most beautiful wedding dress (modern)
  - Couples' real wedding clothes, oldest
- Hats, Bonnets, Shawls, Capes
  - Oldest of each
  - Most beautiful of each

BATHING SUITS

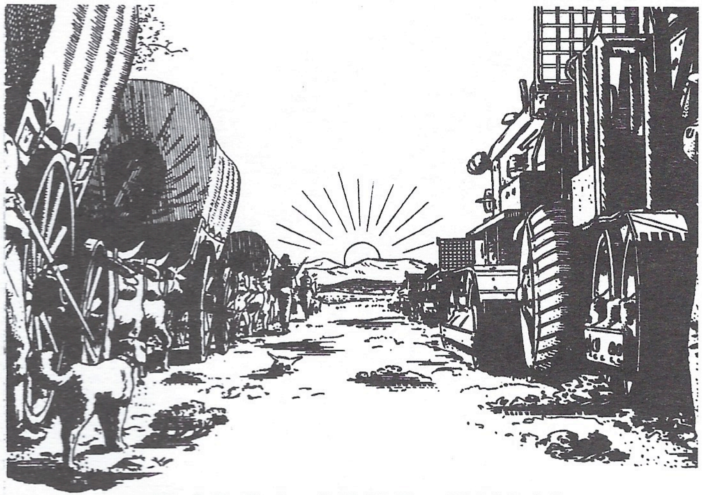
- Ladies' (oldest)
- Men's (oldest)
- Child's (oldest)
- Funniest

*BEST DRESSED FAMILY — BEST DRESSED COUPLE (Exception)

8:30 P.M.	Free Acts (Vaudeville)	Grade School
10:00 P.M.	Square Dance	Grade School
1:00 A.M.	Good Night	

PROGRAM FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

TIME	EVENT	PLACE
10:00 A.M.	Tolling of Bells Opening Headquarters	
10:15 A.M.	Children's Parade (Pre-school Age)—Prizes $10, $5 (Ages 6- 8) Prizes $10, $5 (Ages 9-11) Prizes $10, $5 (Ages 12-14) Prizes $10, $5	
11:00 A.M.	Tug-of-War (High School Freshmen & Juniors)—Prize $10 (High School Sophomores & Seniors)—Prize $10	
11:30 A.M.	Greased Pig Chase—Prize: Pig	Grade School
12:00 Noon	Tricycle Parade (Pre-School Age Children) Prizes $3, $2, $1	Grade School
	Carnival continued	Main Street
	Antique Show continued	Presbyterian Church
12:30 P.M.	Greased Pole Climb (Children up to 13)—Prize $5	Grade School
1:00 P.M.	Parade—Prizes & Trophies	High School (West) to Grade School (East) on Main Street, north one block then west to High School
2:30 P.M.	Awarding of Prizes for Parade	
4:00 P.M.	Free Acts	Grade School
8:00 P.M.	Free Acts	Grade School
10:00 P.M.	Square Dance	Grade School
11:00 P.M.	Giving away automobile	Grade School
1:00 A.M.	Good Night	



MAROA CENTENNIAL

BANQUET

FRIDAY EVENING
AUGUST 27, 1954

MAROA GRADE SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

HONORED GUESTS

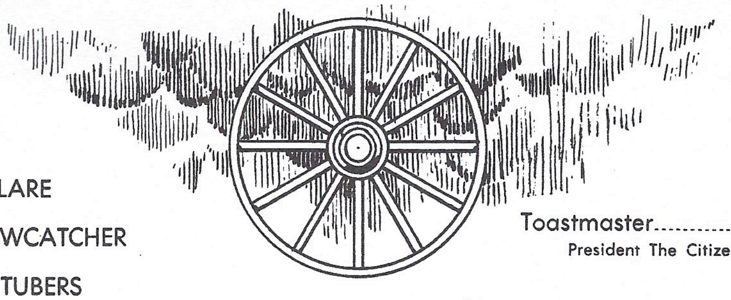
Name	Age in 1954	Years in Maroa Vicinity
Rachel Rau	98	36
Elias Tozer	91	90
Lillian Hobbs	91	58
Martha Story	89	11
Cora Cooper	87	47
Louis E. Rogers	87	52
Israel Donnelly	87	66
Phoebe Michel	87	87
William Shaw	86	48
Love Grady	86	67
Josephine Eaton	86	48
Martha Waller	85	84
Bill Donnelly	85	66
Generva Shoemaker	85	85
Nettie Vaughn	85	82
Ord Fort	85	66
Emily Myers	85	37
Henry McGrath	85	25
Willard L. Baker	84	16
Kate Berger	84	83
Derrick Braden	84	84
Ed Craig	84	79
Hosea Malone	84	55

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Rogers are the couple who have been married the longest—62 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Friis are the couple who have lived the longest in the same house—54 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Velma Davis are the native born couple who have been married the longest—49 years.

MENU



RED FLARE

OFF THE COWCATCHER

PRAIRIE TUBERS

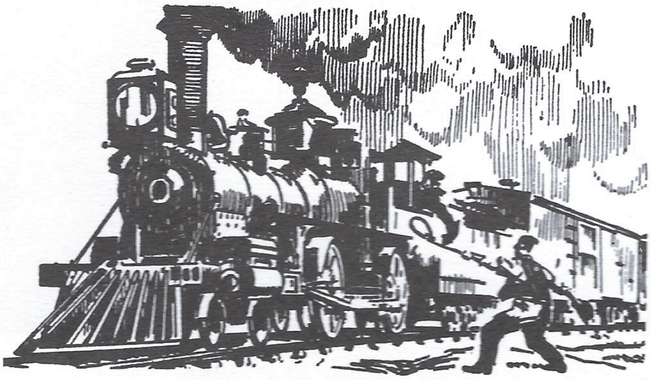
CALICO VEGETABLES

WIND SWEPT LEAVES

WHEELS AND LUBRICANT

STEAM

THE RED CABOOSE



PROGRAMME

Toastmaster....................John H. Crocker
President The Citizens National Bank

Invocation......................Rev. Richard L. Kilian
Minister of the Maroa Bible Church

Introduction of Honored Guests

Trombone Solo: "Valse Petite"......by Cimera
Kermit Dealy — Mary Sue Dealy, Accompanist

Introduction of Pioneer Families

Violin Solo: "Noctourne"................by Chopin
Thelma Widick — Charlotte Widick, Accompanist

Centennial Address:
"Prisoners are People, Too"
Honorable John Wm. Chapman, Lieut. Governor of Illinois

Organ Music...............................Roy Carlisle

1954 Centennial Picture of Robert Bolen

TIDBITS

My favorite things about Maroa are: taking a lazy drive around town and being greeted with friendly waves down every street...trying to walk for exercise and have everyone stop to ask if you need a ride!

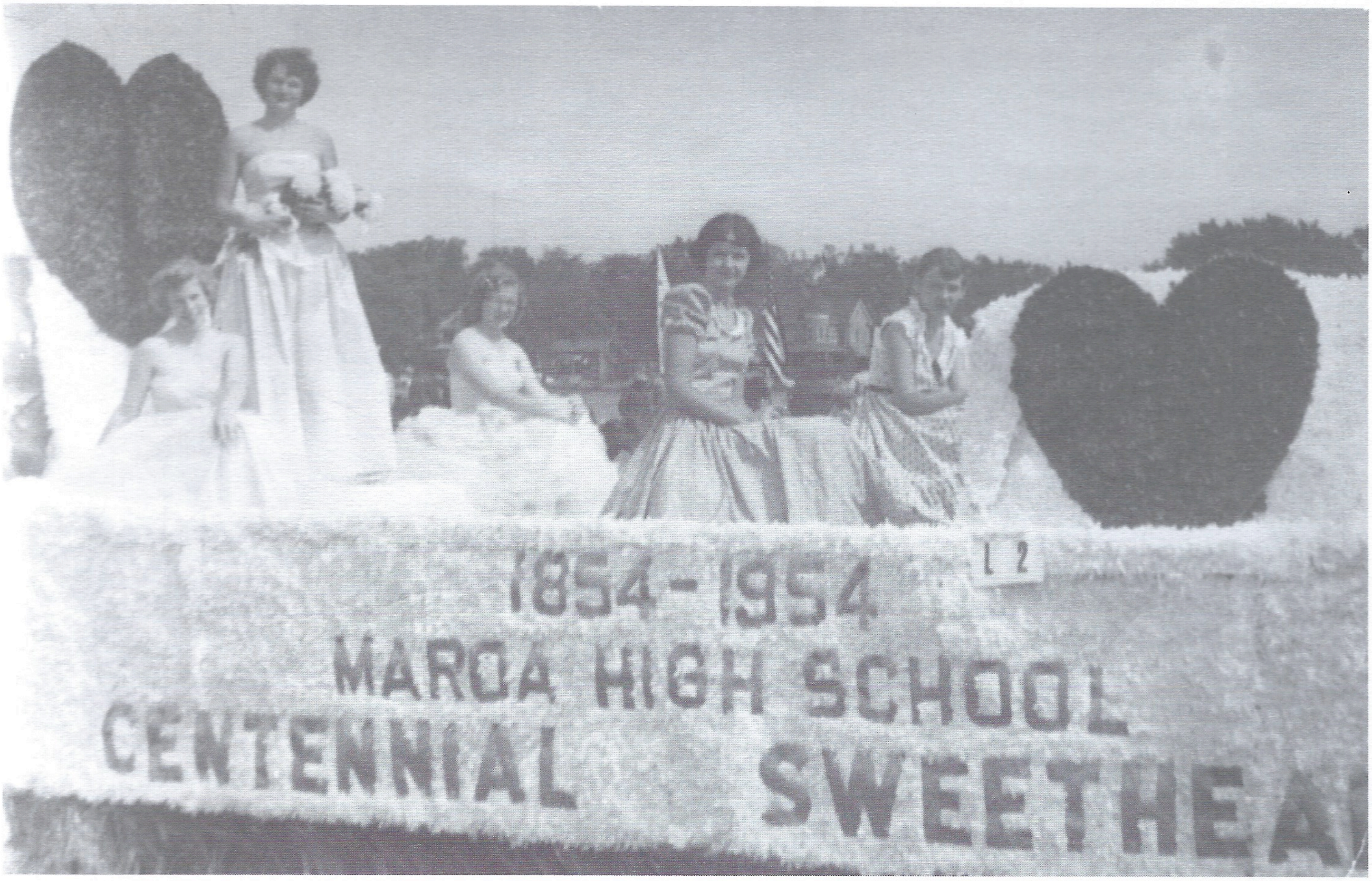
Sesquicentennial committee member Sharon Woolum

Age: 47

Jimmie Leach, 4 yr old son of Jim and Mary Leach, King of Tomorrow Maroa Centennial 1954.

Jim Leach during Centennial in 1954.

Maroa Centennial Girls - 1954


1854 - 1954
L 2
MAROA HIGH SCHOOL
CENTENNIAL SWEETHEA

1954 Centennial Sweethearts - Left to Right: Mary Sue Dealey, Ruth Ann Braden, Sandra Johnson, Phyllis Hodges, Sandra Colbek.

Picture of the Rogers Family at the 1954 Centennial.

John and Clayton Rogers at the 1954 Centennial.

STYLE & BEARD SHOW

Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Shaw. Mr. Shaw, who is 86, won first in "Oldest Man with Beard" and "Oldest Man in Costume"

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Fathauer, Dale, Unice and Lavina. Mr. Fathauer won second in "Most Distinguished Beard," third in "Sideburns," second in "Whitest Beard"

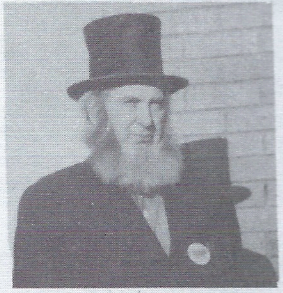
E. J. Leach and William McGuire. Mr. Leach won first in "Whitest Beard" and third in "Men's Handsomest Costume." Mr. McGuire won third in "Reddest Beard"

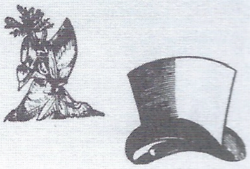
Jo Kinkaid won first in "Youngest Man With Beard" and Youngest Man Over High School age in Costume"

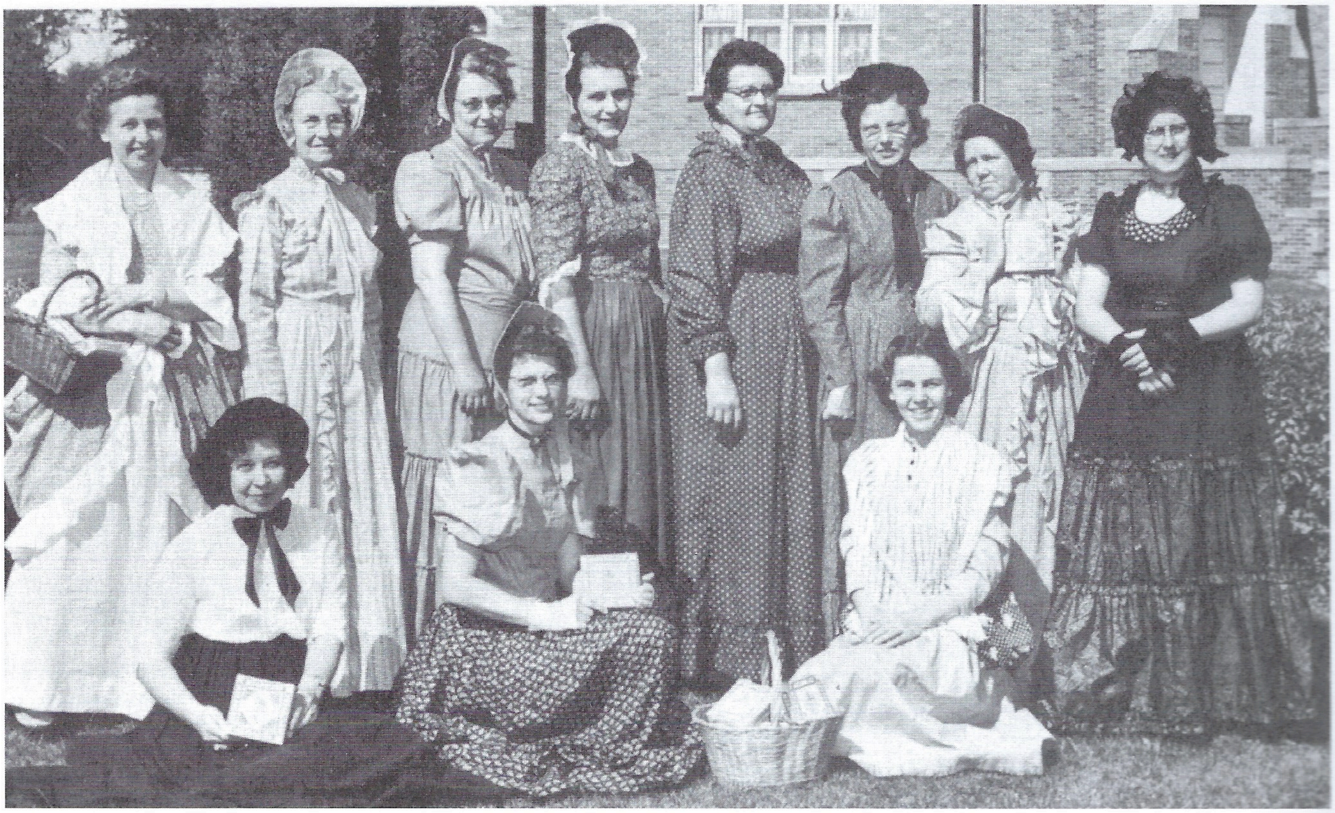
Charles Martin won third in "Best Trimmed Beard" and third in "Best Moustache"

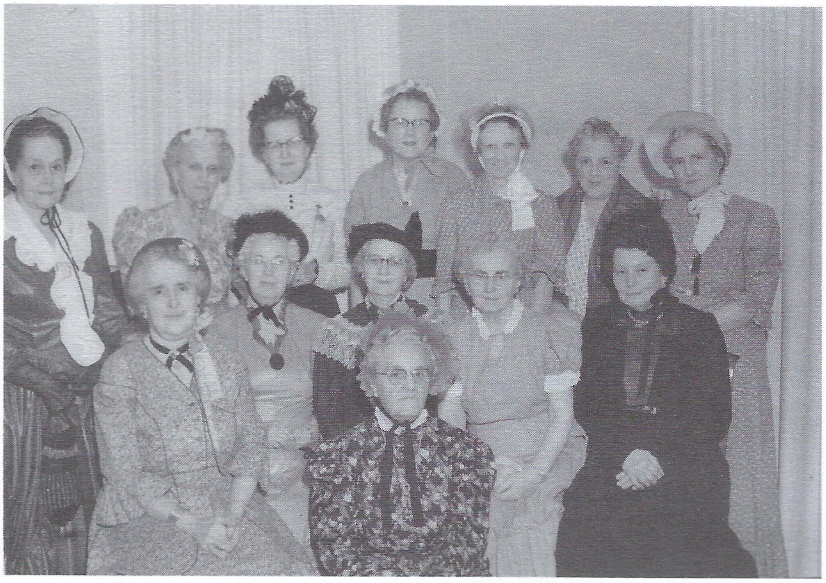
Dave Catlin won third in "Longest Beard" and first in "Long Hair and Beard"

Clyde Odle won second in "Best Non-Trimmed Beard," second in "Longest Beard" and first in "Men's Handsomest Costume"

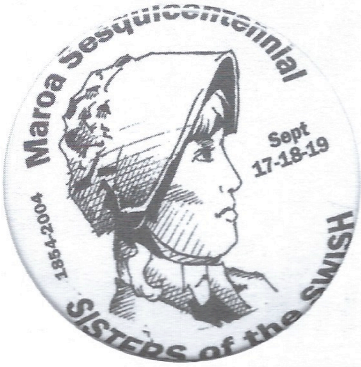

Jim Pulliam won second in "Long Hair and Beard"

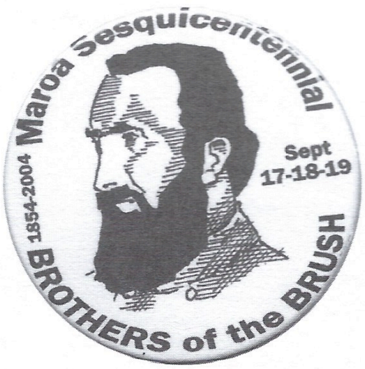


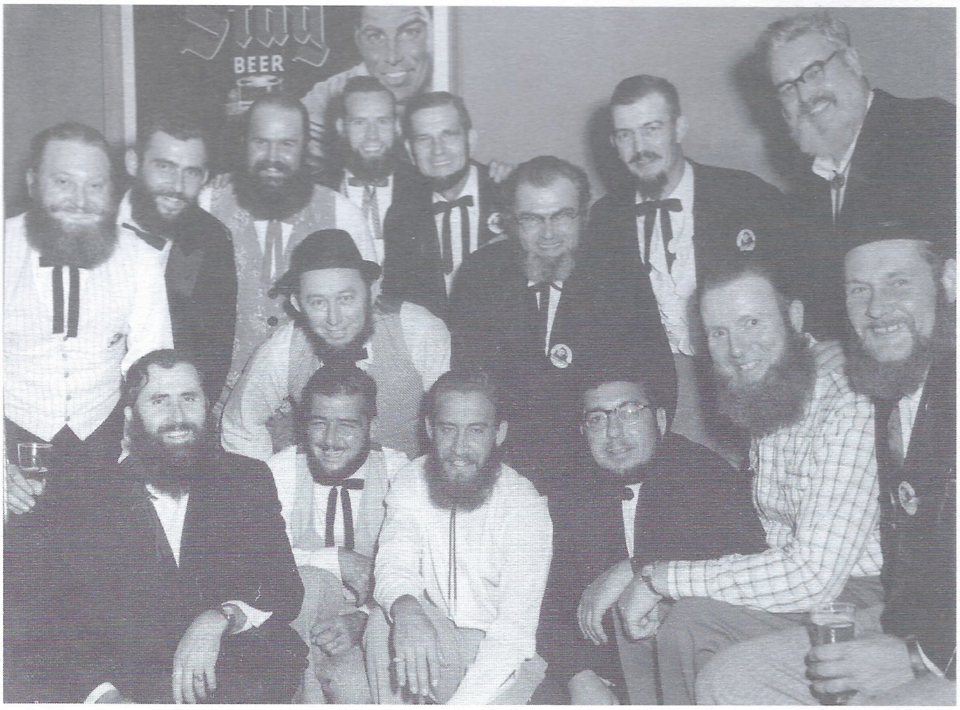

Picture Maroa Christian Church Women - 1954 Centennial



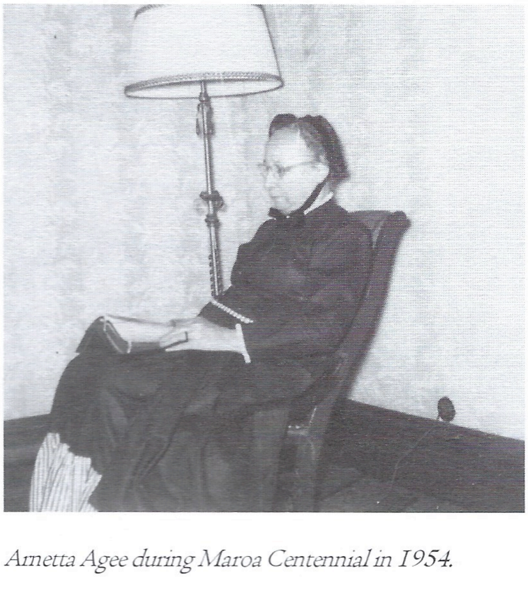
This picture of club girls for the centennial in 1954 are: Left to right: Back row:Iona Stoutenborough, Louise Gentle, Alice Wilson, Mary Stoutenborough, Bernice Grady, Oscarine Dewhirst, Helen H. Helen Waller, Ethel McGuire, Mae Miller, Pearl Stoutenborough, Mary Effie Crouch. In front is Ethel Stoutenborough.


Maroa Sesquicentennial
Sept
17-18-19
1854-2004
SISTERS of the SWISH

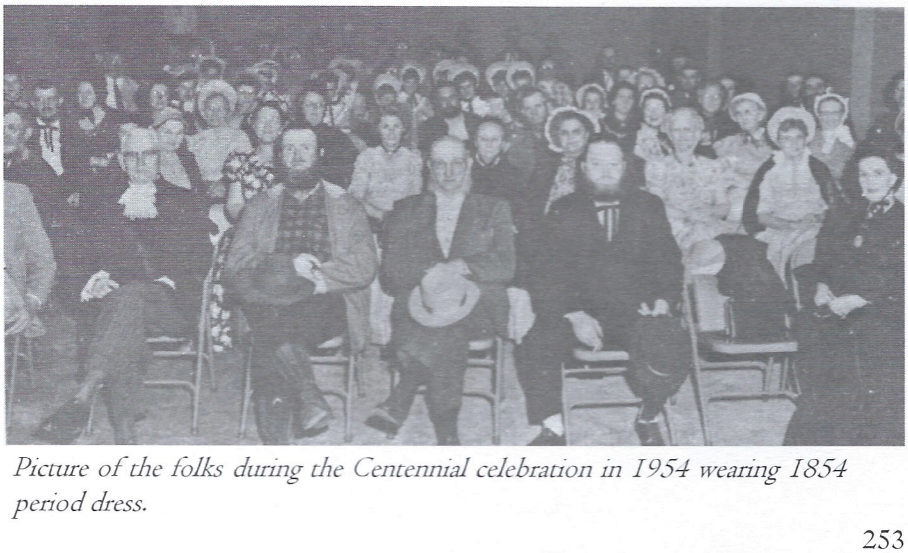

Maroa Sesquicentennial
Sept
17-18-19
1854-2004
BROTHERS of the BRUSH



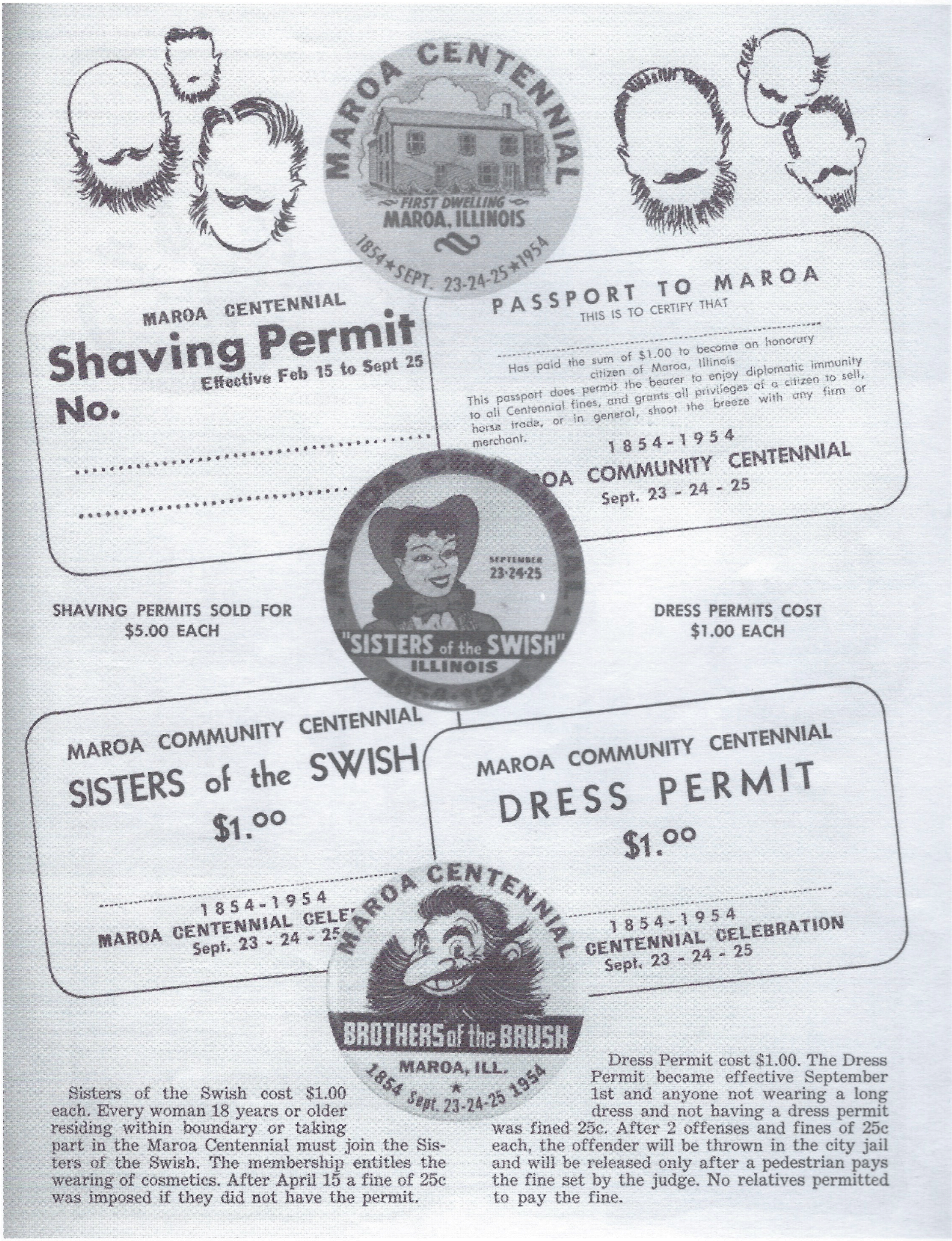
These men went on a treck to St. Louis to promote the Maroa Centennial in 1954.



Arnetta Agee during Maroa Centennial in 1954.



Picture of the folks during the Centennial celebration in 1954 wearing 1854 period dress.


MAROA CENTENNIAL
FIRST DWELLING
MAROA, ILLINOIS
1854 ★ SEPT. 23-24-25 ★ 1954
MAROA CENTENNIAL
SEPTEMBER 23·24·25
"SISTERS of the SWISH"
ILLINOIS
1854 · 1954
MAROA CENTENNIAL
BROTHERS of the BRUSH
MAROA, ILL.
1854 Sept. 23-24-25 1954

MAROA CENTENNIAL

Shaving Permit

Effective Feb 15 to Sept 25

No.

....

....

PASSPORT TO MAROA

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

....

Has paid the sum of $1.00 to become an honorary citizen of Maroa, Illinois

This passport does permit the bearer to enjoy diplomatic immunity to all Centennial fines, and grants all privileges of a citizen to sell, horse trade, or in general, shoot the breeze with any firm or merchant.

1854-1954

OA COMMUNITY CENTENNIAL

Sept. 23 - 24 - 25

SHAVING PERMITS SOLD FOR
$5.00 EACH

DRESS PERMITS COST
$1.00 EACH

MAROA COMMUNITY CENTENNIAL

SISTERS of the SWISH

$1.00

....

1854-1954

MAROA CENTENNIAL CELE

Sept. 23 - 24 - 25

MAROA COMMUNITY CENTENNIAL

DRESS PERMIT

$1.00

....

1854-1954

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

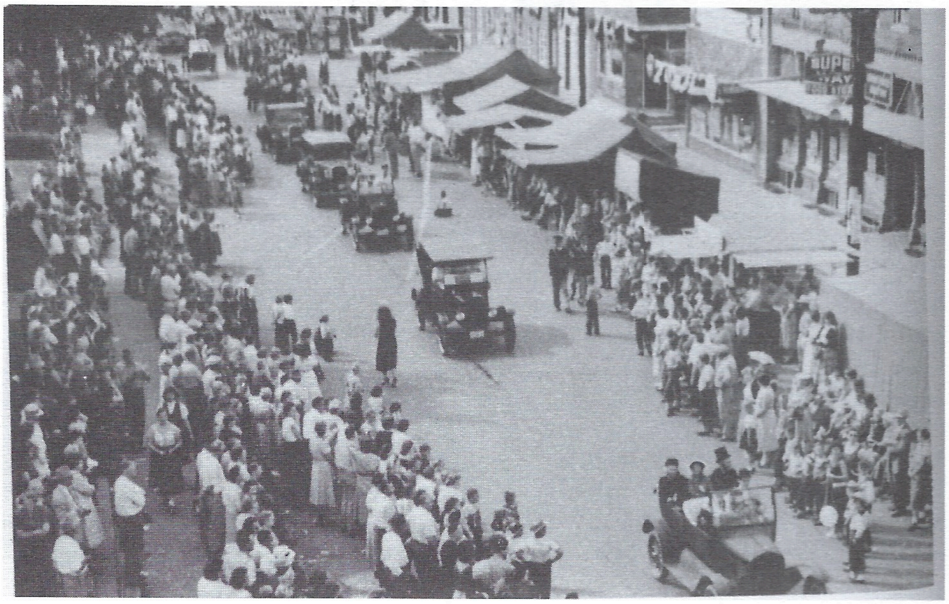
Sept. 23 - 24 - 25

Sisters of the Swish cost $1.00 each. Every woman 18 years or older residing within boundary or taking part in the Maroa Centennial must join the Sisters of the Swish. The membership entitles the wearing of cosmetics. After April 15 a fine of 25c was imposed if they did not have the permit.

Dress Permit cost $1.00. The Dress Permit became effective September 1st and anyone not wearing a long dress and not having a dress permit was fined 25c. After 2 offenses and fines of 25c each, the offender will be thrown in the city jail and will be released only after a pedestrian pays the fine set by the judge. No relatives permitted to pay the fine.

A picture of some of the fundraising activities for the Centennial in 1954.

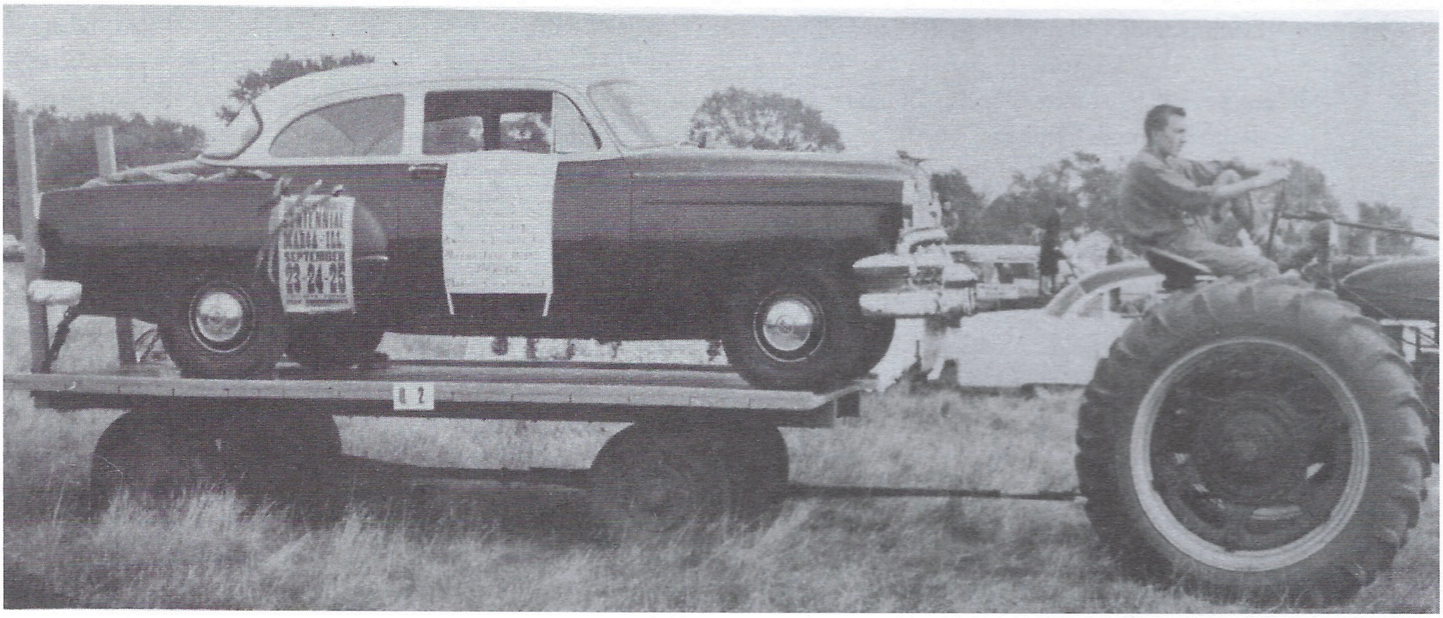
1:40 P. M. SEPTEMBER 25, 1954 CENTENNIAL PARADE, MAROA, ILLINOIS



Street scene of the Antique autos in the parade.

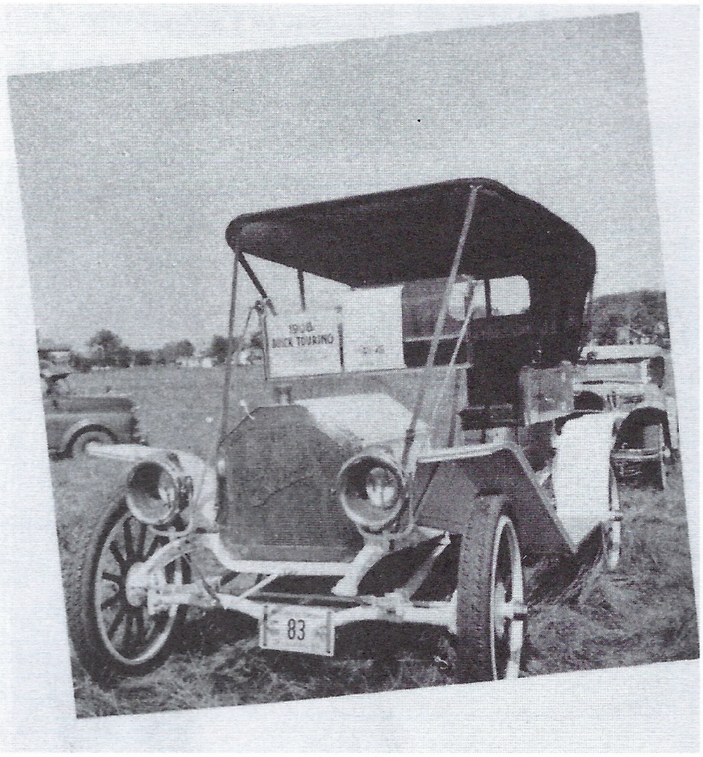
The Parade was passing the Maroa Presbyterian Church, corner Main and Walnut.
Uncle Sam portrayed by Albert Gardner
American Flag carried by W. T. Peterson of Bloomington, Illinois on Palomino
Color Guard Weillip-Cramer, Maroa, Illinois. (Won 2nd Place in color guards)
Maroa High School Band
Band Boosters Club (Cadillac Car)
Bob Braden on old high wheel bicycle
Lloyd Rodgers on Modern bicycle
Mayor R. D. Bolen and wife (Chairman of the Centennial)
King and Queen of Yesteryear (Elias Tozer 91 and Mrs. Bruce Waller 85)
King and Queen of Today on float of Maroa Bank (Lonny McClung & Esther Dubson)
Tommie Lou Sawson & Bob Dash (Contestants for King and Queen of Today)
Eloise Simpson and Dave Boyer
Beverly Caplinger (Contestant for Queen of Today)
Nancy Parker
Donna Pennypacker
Escort Car
King & Queen of Tomorrow (Jimmie Leach (4)/and Georgia May Atchison -5)
(Some contestants also rode)

Clinton Mayor H. D. Breighner
Dawson Mayor Lawrence Gulso
Weldon Board President
Assumption Mayor
Bement Mayor (Lynn Crook)
Warrensburg Mayor (Clarence Copper)
Moweaqua Board Pres. (Wayne Hemer)
Argenta Mayor (Hugh Martin)
Lincoln Mayor - A.M.Feldman
Minier Mayor -



Yes, there was an automobile given away during the Centennial. The raffle was won by Ezydor Halicki, from Maroa, Illinois.

Some of the antique automobiles in the Centennial parade.



Another antique auto in Centennial parade.

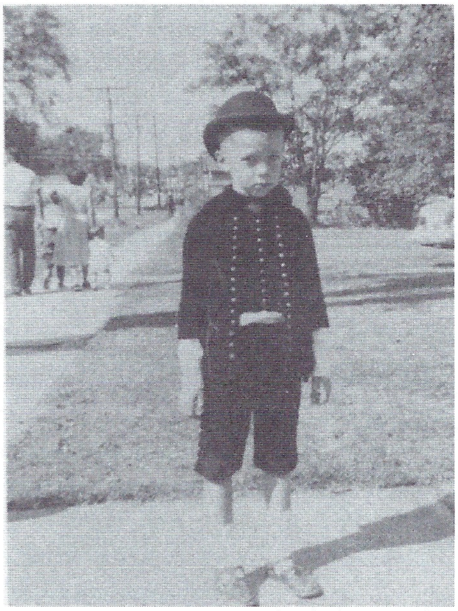
Clinton High School Band. (third place)
Senior Class Joan Lee Baton Studio, Decatur (2nd In Drum & Bugle Corp)
Junior Class Joan Lee Baton Studio
Illinois Central Railroad (Teddy Thompson & Linda Dean riding on float)
Car from Lincoln for Atkins as representative
I. 0. 0. F., Forsyth, Illinois (3rd place in Fraternal)
2 Horse back Riders - 1 white riding boy & girl & 1 bay 4 white feet
Boy on decorated bicycle
Clown (McCarthy for Representative)
1854 Circuit Rider, Charlie Kinkaid (1st place)
Methodist Church, Maroa , Illinois Harold Groves driving tractor
Spicers Accordian Studio, Decatur, Illinois
Illinois Central Telephone Truck
Illinois .Power Co. Truck
Aarvig-Campbell post Pontiac Post (Car had two front ends & went backwards & forwards) (2nd in unclassified)
Methodist Church Leader S. S. Class Float, Maroa, Illinois.
2 Horseback riders - 1 white horse, Man-Man-Tan
Old Fire truck-Moweaqua American Legion
1954 Allis Chalmers tractor drawing 1854 plow held by Ernest Braden
Maroa Unit Home Bureau (tied for third place in organizations)
A team of ponies hitched to cart (driven by little girl)
One rider on pony (boy)
B. B. Burns, Decatur, Illinois.
Town & Country Home Bureau Float (1st in organizations)
2 Palomino riders
Girls - Blue shirts - one ride hat, Patty Jones Reva Thomas
Maroa Christian Church Float (2nd in church floats)
Assumption High School Band
Horse Drawn Hearse driven by Bill Hayes with Halden Myers drivingfor Rubles FuneralI Home, Maroa, Illinois.
Hearse (Buick) Rubles Funeral Home Driven by Mrs Ruble
Hearse (Cadillac) Rubles Funeral Home - Driven by Mr. Ruble
Mr. & Mrs. W. 0. Shaw in sleigh on wheels pulled by pony (2nd in Single Pony Hit
2 Turkeys In wire cage entered by Glenn
High School P. T. A. (Medicine Man) (2nd in organizations)
Leland Ruch go kinkaid area dry Milteon Walden Indian
Old Fire Truck, Wapella Fire Dept* (1st in Fire Departments)-
Pair white footed mules hitched to antique wooden corn planter) (Entered by Chas. G. Stoutenborough-lst place in mule team)
Single Pony rig, entered by Alien Jones (1st place in single pfcy hitch)
Little car pulling small covered wagon followed by goat" (Dale Fathauer)
Horse Drawn Schooner -J. E. Reeser Co., Maroa, (1st in Unclassified)
Emmett Leach and 2 grandchildren walking
small burro, racing cart driven by bearded man
Gray Horse & Buggy (Barr Stoutenborough & Beulah Randolph)*2nd Pioneer Class
Joe Longsdorff & Aurthur Fathauer 1st single buggy hitch
Hodge Family in 2 seated rig drawn by horse 2nd in single buggy Hitch

Maroa High School Band during Centennial parade

Macon Co. Oil Truck driven by Robert Tomoaugh
Farm Bureau-Macon County Service Company, Decatur, Illinois.Tractor Edward Crabtree
Better Farming Macon Co. Truck Feid Co
Center Ridge Home Bureau Unit
Girl riding side saddle (Simcox from Assumption, Illinois)
Maroa Bible Church Float (1st in Church floats)
Warrensburg-Latham High School Band (2nd in high school bands)
Popcorn Farm entered by Geo. Hunt, Maroa, Illinois Geo Hunt driving
Maroa Fun Club Bus Leimbach
Clinton Fire Dept. Truck
"Now and Then" entered by Cozy Nook Mr & Mrs Eliven McIvenna
Maroa High School Drivers Training Car
Bill Berry and man in dark suit on horseback
Forsyth Methodist Church Float (3rd in church floats)
Lincoln State School Band 2nd in bands other than High School
W. R. Stoutenborough and "family" Driving 2 horse rig (2nd in Commercial)
Maroa Flower Club
Argenta-Oreana Fire Dept. Truck (2nd in fire departments)
Horse & buggy (Man and 2 children from Bement, Illinois.)
Pfiles Camera Shop, Decatur, Illinois.
Forsyth Grade School (3rd In school floats)
Riding Club-11 riders believe from Decatur (1st in Horseback groups) Purple with Gold fringe
W.C.T.U.
Color Guard, Oren L. Davis Post, Decatur, Illinois. (3rd in "color guards") Drill Team from Oren L. Davis Post
P. E. Hatchery, Maroa , Illinois. advertising Purina
Red Cross, Deeatur, Illinois.
Small Surrey (1880) and pony driven by John McKinley , Farmer City, Illinois.
(3rd in Single pony Hitch)
Old Standard Oil Truck drawn by 2 horses driven by Geo. Atchison, Maroa Illinois.(3rd in draft horses)
New Standard Oil Truck driven by Elmer Gardner
Yellow Buggy from City of Maroa tractor driven by Roger James
10 heads & suits owned by Clown
Clown
Indian on horseback (Sharon Hilt) On Lady
Grandaughters of Mr and Mrs John Shoemaker
Pamela Cline
Lincoln State School Drum & Bugle Corp (1st in drum & bugle corp
1890 Horse Drawn Hearse from Dawson-Wikoff, Decatur, Illinois (Forest Wikoff on hearse)
1954 Dawson-Wikoff Hearse
0. E. S. Float (60 Years) 1st in Fraternal (Maroa , Illinois)
Car from Starrs, Decatur, Illinois
Wagon from Starrs (Genevra Shaw riding in back)
Station wagon from Starrs
Girl on Horse stripped blanket on back white hat
Truck. advertising apples entered by R. E. Karban
Old Engine (40 & 8 American Legion, Decatur, Illinois.)-Oldsmobile-Weinbacker, Decatur, Illinois.
Atlanta Boy Scouts on truck.
5 boy scouts, on decorated bicycles -
2 girls on horseback- palomino's
Oriental Shrine Band, Decatur, Illinois. (1st in Bands other than High School)
Color Guard-Heyworth, Illinois.
Holsum Bread, Decatur, Illinois.
*** these are not correct down to next asterisk
Antique Packard
Antique Packard
Ford
1932 Packard
1922 Ford - closed coup
Antique Ford 2 seater open
? (Auburn)
1927 Willys
Antique Ford run-a.-bout
Ford 2 seats
Ford 2 seats with top
Ford top down roadster
Ant ? slate color red wire wheels
1904 Cox Motor Buggy
Macon County Sheriff
New Massey Harris self Propelled Corn Picker-C. & W. Imp. Warrensburg, Illinois. (Doc Withers)
New Massey Harris Combine
New Massey Harris Combine)Harold Chalcraft with Cradel on header
Charles G-. Stoutenborough on horseback
Bill McGuire on horseback
U. S. Air Force Thunder Jet
4 Men in World War I Uniforms

Maroa Disaster Mobile Unit
Car
Maroa Grade School Band
Man on Horse
Old Horse Drawn-oil tank (Marathon)Francis Rogers & his daughter is riding with him
New Marathon Oil truck, Decatur, Illinois
Parents Club-Boy Scouts, Maroa
2 Horseback riders- 2 boys brown horses
Dri-Gas Truck, Taylorville
Dri Gas truck Linvilles, Maroa
American Legion Auxiliary, Maroa, Illinois
3 boys on horses 1 white
Modern Cleaners, Clinton, Illinois. (Girl in convertible}
Modern Cleaners, Clinton, IL Truck
Mary Jane Lindsey, Queen of Furrows, Clinton, Illinois
Boy and goat
Automobile -?
Maroa High School Float (1st in School Floats) Ruth Ann Braden Cent sweetheart
Niantic High School Band
Harold Lienhart with old Cradle (Maroa -Implement Company)tied for 3rd commercial)
Oliver -binder (Antique
Oliver Binder - New self propelled
Oliver Corn Picker
Oliver Tractor
Leonard Leach on Motorcycle (tied for 3rd in Unclassified)
Maroa Grade P. T. A. (tied for 3rd place)
Pair Ponies Covered Wagon (Best Tire Co. Clinton)- (1st in Best Fair Ponies) Dairy Queen Float
Zero Candy Co. Float
Pithian Sisters Car Maroa, Illinois
Piatt Co. Trail Blazers Riding Club (2nd in group horseback)
2 Riders on palominos
31 horses and riders
Omar Bread truck
Wapella High School Band
Cheney's Grocery, Maroa
Illiopolis Saddle Club
Decorated Car
Mt. Pulaski Chamber of Commerce (Replica of Court House)
Mr. & Mrs. Thornton Thorpe, Wapella, Illinois. (Horses almost identical and she was on side-saddle)
Mason City High School Band
4 Draft Horses Drawing Meadow Gold Wagon (2nd in Draft horses)
8 ponies with children riders
DeWitt Co. National Bank (1st in Commercial) Clinton, Illinois.
Maroa Rebekah Lodge

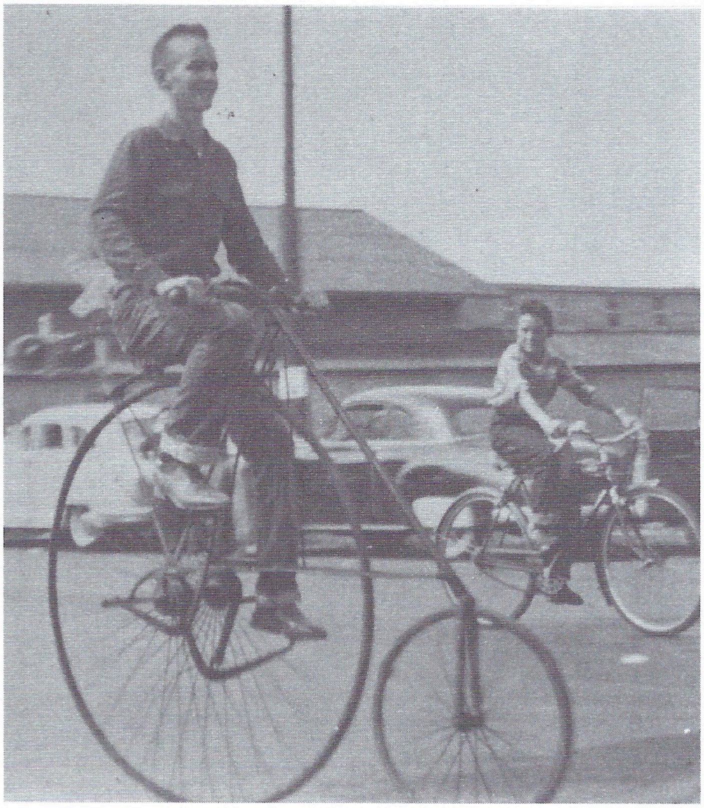
Special awards from the Centennial, Joe Kinkaid won first in "Youngest Man with Beard" and "Youngest Man over HIgh School age in Costume"



Special awards from the Centennial, Ronnie Runyen wearing suit belonging to Bill Jones. The suit is over 70 years old.

The Maroa Grade School band in the Centennial Parade.

Atlanta high School band (1st in High School Bands)
6 Draft Horses-John Warner hank, Clinton, Illinois. (1st in Draft Horses)
3 Horseback riders
4 Horses drawing Wagon (Mabel Kinkaid, Community Cafe)
Schenck-Kempshall Cigar Co. (tied for 3rd commercial)
2 men on Horseback
Dewey Bunner, Maroa & John Humphrey of Waynesville, Illinois on Horseback
1880 carriage and pony
Argenta High School Band
4 ponies Express Wagon-Roy Ubbenga, Kenney , Illinois. (1st 4 pony Hitch)
4 Ponies Circus Wagon-Jones Bros. Clinton, Illinois. (2nd 4 pony Hitch)
1 Team ponies-Paul Braden
Stevie Braden & Dickie Jones riding horses
Sunbeam Truck
Sunbeam Float
Maroa Grade School (2nd in schools)
Car to be Given Away at Centennial
Maroa Old Ladder
Old Fire Truck-, Maroa (3rd Place in Fire Depts.)
New Fire Truck, Maroa
New Fire Truck, Maroa
Calliope

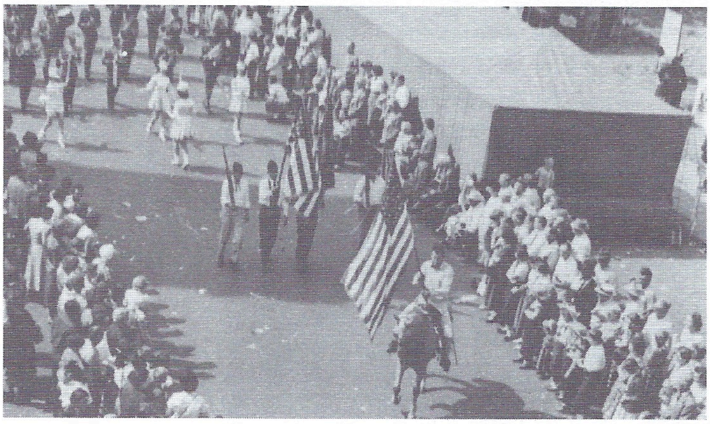


Bob Braden on old bicycle and Lloyd Rodgers on new bicycle at Centennial parade.

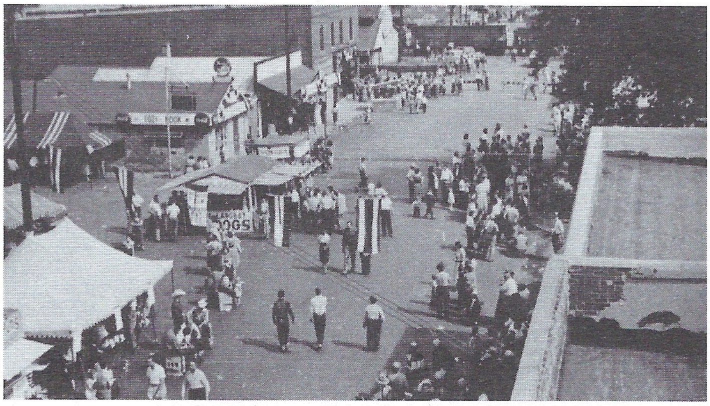
CENTENNIAL STORY IN THE SUNDAY DECATUR HERALD AND REVIEW

15,000 ATTEND CENTENNIAL AT MAROA.

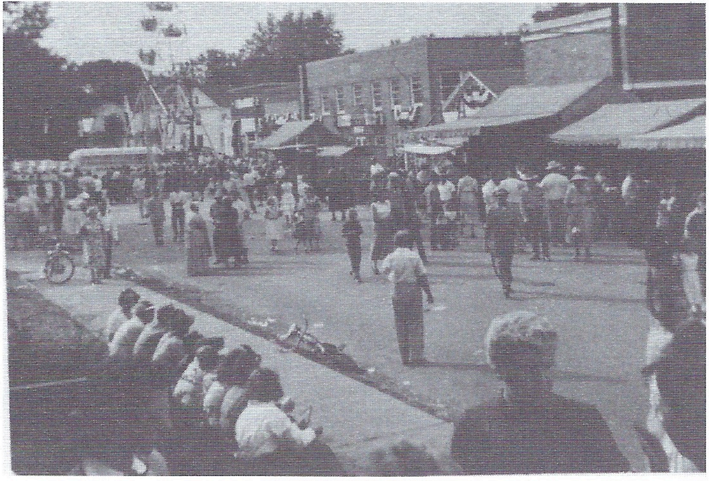
And estimated 15,000 persons crowded into Maroa yesterday to wind up the town's Centennial celebration. In the parade starting at 1:30 pm, about 250 entries marched and rode through the streets,. Robert D. Bolen, Maroa mayor and chairman of the celebration, said the parade stretched out for 3 miles. Activities continued through the afternoon and a square dance was held from 10 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. when the celebration officially ended.



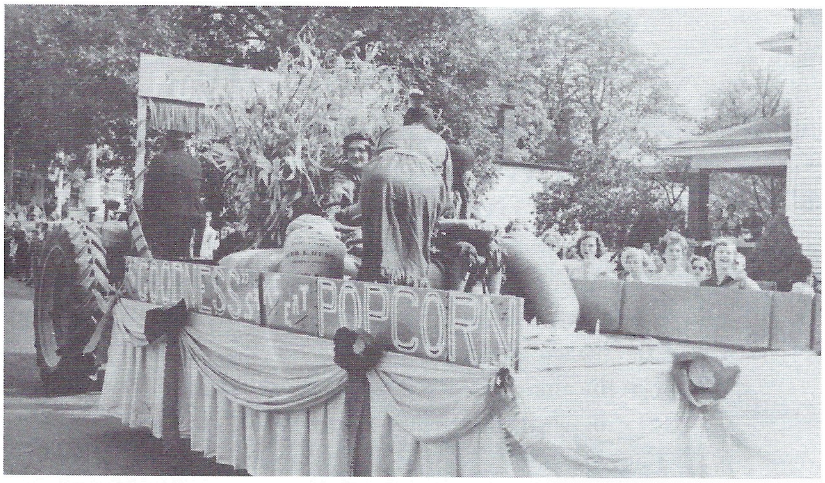
Street scene of beginning of the Centennial Parade.



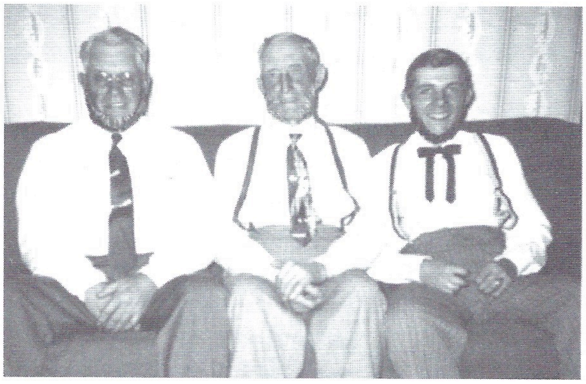
A view of Main Street looking east. Notice the train and other interesting streetscapes.



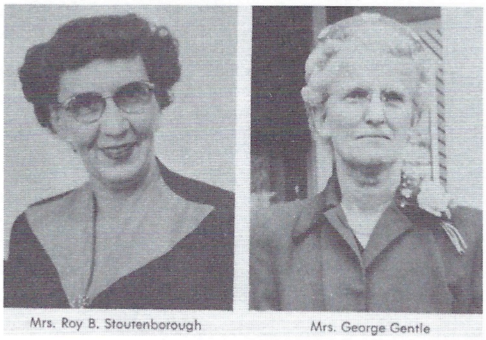
Scenes from the Centennial, Street scene looking onto Main street looking west.



Float entered in the Centennial parade by Mr. and Mrs. George L. Hunt, who owned the Popcorn Farm, Maroa, Illinois



3 generations of Rogers at the 1954 Centennial - showing their "Whiskers".

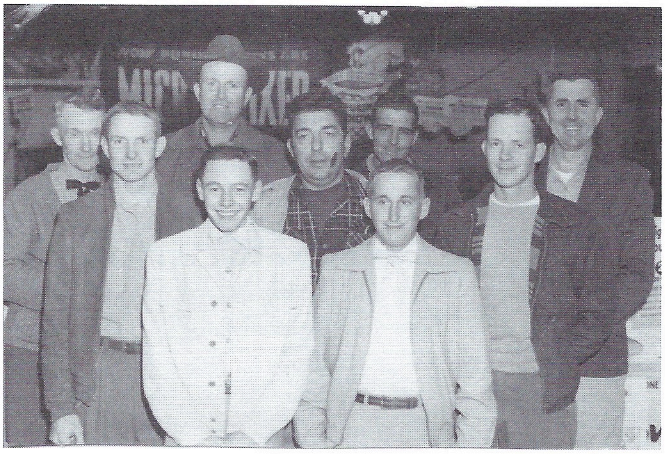


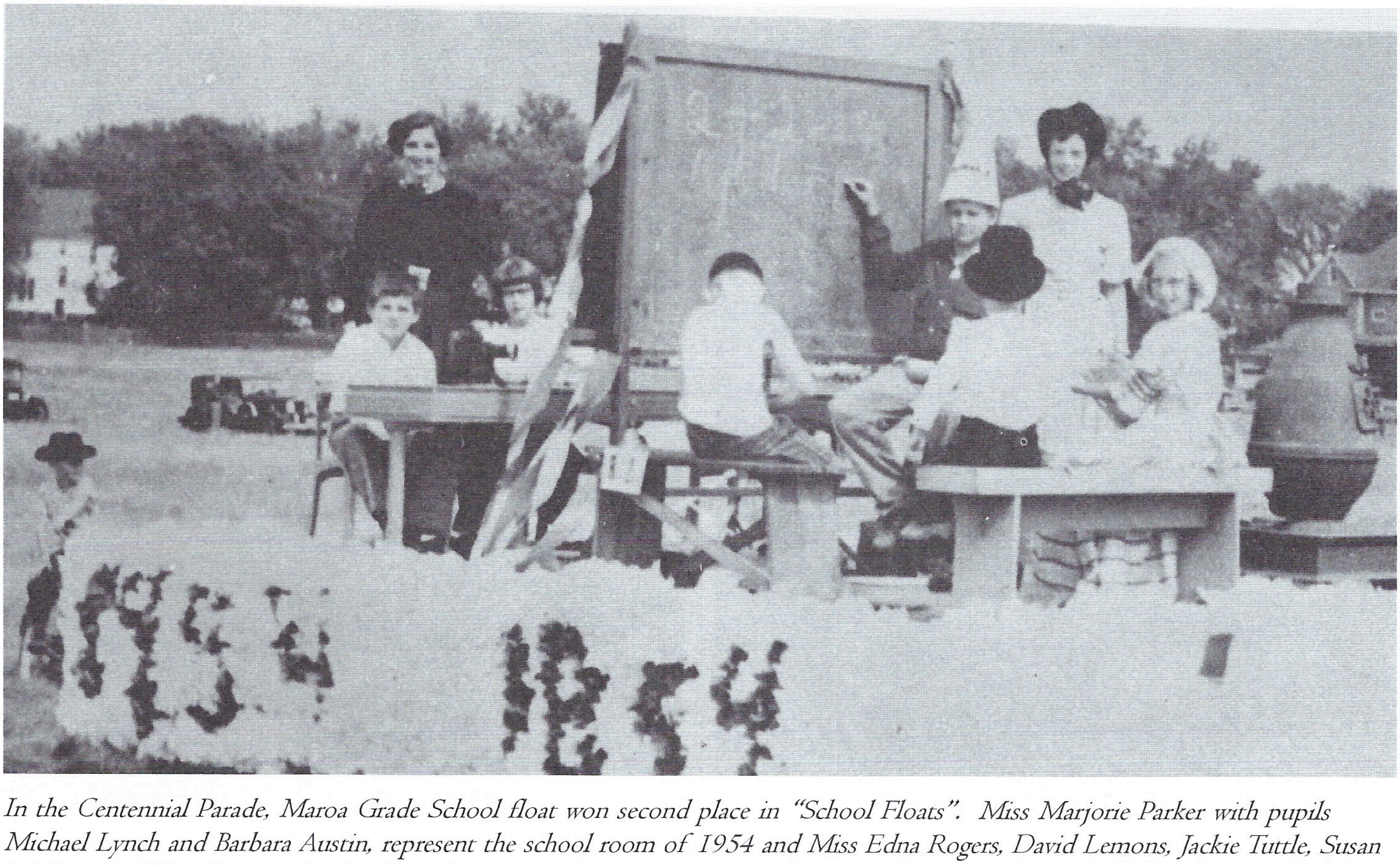
Mrs. Roy B. Stoutenborough

Mrs. George Gentle

Maroa's Centennial photo album chairs in 1954, Mrs. Roy Stoutenborough and Mrs. George (Louise) Gentle.

Parade committee Maroa Centennial 1954 Ernie Hitchison, Bill McGuire, Hugh Peck, Clyde Odle, Jim Leach, Henry Bennett, Dick Tozer Jim Parker, John Agee





In the Centennial Parade, Maroa Grade School float won second place in "School Floats". Miss Marjorie Parker with pupils Michael Lynch and Barbara Austin, represent the school room of 1954 and Miss Edna Rogers, David Lemons, Jackie Tuttle, Susan McGuire and Tom Birge at the blackboard represent the 1854 school room.

Joe James, Doc Withers, Elmer Gardner, Clyde Odle, Albert Gardner, Bernard Myers, Jr., and Clarence Michaels (L to R) appeared as "Bearded Ladies" in Variety show. Bill Hayes was absent when the picture was taken.

CENTENNIAL FUND
15000
14
13
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4000

July August Sept. 1st September 22nd

During the Centennial, they raised money for the Centennial festivities. Note the background indicates the thermometer was on the northwest corner of Main and Walnut Street.

MAROA , ILLINOIS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CENSUS 2000 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES:

Total population 1,654
Male 829 50.1% (entire country 49.1%)
Female 825 49.9% (entire country 50.9%)
Median age (years) 37.1 (entire country 35.3)
Under 5 years 107 6.5% (entire country 6.8%)
18 years and over 1,201 72.6% (entire country 74.3%)
65 years and over 214 12.9% (entire country 12.4%)

One race 1,650 99.8% (entire country 97.6%)
White 1,642 99.3% (entire country 75.1%)
Black or African American 3 0.2% (entire country 12.3%)
American Indian and Alaska Native 1 0.1% (entire country 0.9%)
Asian 1 0.1% (entire country 3.6%)
Some other race 3 0.2% (entire country 5.5%)
Two or more races 4 0.2% (entire country 2.4%)
Hispanic or Latino (of any race) 15 0.9% (entire country 12.5%)

Average household size 2.54 (entire country 2.59)
Average family size 3.00 (entire country 3.14)
Total housing units 711
Occupied housing units 651 91.6 (entire country 91.0%)
Owner-occupied housing units 515 79.1% (entire country 66.2%)
Renter-occupied housing units 136 20.9% (entire country 33.8%)
Vacant housing units 60 8.4% (entire country 9.0%)

Social Characteristics -
Population 25 years and over 1,096
High school graduate or higher 947 86.4% (entire country 80.4%)
Bachelor's degree or higher 115 10.5% (entire country 24.4%)
Civilian veterans (civilian population 18 years and over) 217 18.0% (entire country 12.7%)
Disability status (population 21 to 64 years) 100 10.9% (entire country 19.2%)
Foreign born 16 1.0% (entire country 11.1%)
Now married (population 15 years and over) 753 58.6% (entire country 54.4%)
Speak a language other than English at home (5 years and over) 41 2.6% (entire country 17.9%)

Economic Characteristics
In labor force (population 16 years and over) 863 68.0 (entire country 63.9%)
Mean travel time to work in minutes (population 16 years and over) 23.4 (entire country 25.5)
Median household income (dollars) 41,615 (entire country 41,994)
Median family income (dollars) 46,908 (entire country 50,046)
Per capita income (dollars) 18,308 (entire country 21,857)
Families below poverty level 14 3.0% (entire country 9.2%)
Individuals below poverty level 74 4.4% (entire country 12.4%)

Housing Characteristics
Single-family owner-occupied homes 419
Median value (dollars) 64,400 (entire country 119,600)
With a mortgage 720 (entire country 1,088)
Not mortgaged 289 (entire country 295)
Source: U.S. Census Bureau,

MAROA FAMILY SAYS GOODBYE TO UKRAINIAN 'DAUGHTER'

EXCHANGE STUDENT GOES HOME TO ONE FAMILY, LEAVES ANOTHER BEHIND

by Jeanine Shaw

(Reprinted courtesy of The DeWitt County Constitution from June 17, 2004 edition)

At 5 a.m. last Tuesday morning, Oleksandra Khashchyna boarded a plane that took her halfway around the world back to her hometown of Sevastopol, Ukraine. Though this trip reunited her with the family she left one year ago to come to the United States, it was a tearful goodbye with another, the one she had become a part of while living in Maroa.

Two days before placing her exchange 'daughter' on the plane that would take her home, Kim Moore stood in the blue bedroom that the 16-year-old had called her own for the past year. "We had her pick out the paint," Kim Moore remembered, "we explained to her that she was going to be here for a year, this was going to be her room and we wanted her to pick out the color."

Even though Khashchyna, the young woman who went by "Sasha," was still "at home," the family was already anticipating the void they would feel in her absence. "It's going to be hard to walk into this room for awhile," said 16-year-old Whitney Moore, who had developed a sister-like bond with Khashchyna, "this is going to be Sasha's room for a long time."

Yet this isn't the first time the Moore family has been through this process of bringing someone into their family and then sending them back home. The Moores began hosting exchange students back in 1998, when their daughter Whitney, an only child, was in sixth grade.

"She always wanted siblings and we weren't able to do that," said Kim Moore. "So that's when we decided to do the program."

The family has always had a big heart and enjoyed opening their home to friends. "We always have kids over here all the time," Kim Moore explained as she gestured affectionately to her daughter. "She's been dragging them home like puppies since she was in first grade."

With this in mind, becoming a host family seemed a natural choice for parents Kim and David Moore, and their daughter has certainly enjoyed it.

"Sometimes you get more stuff and you get kind of spoiled," said Whitney Moore of the reality of being an only child, " … but having somebody there is more important than all the stuff you could ever get."

As for Khashchyna, she says that she has felt very nurtured and supported by the Moores in all her endeavors. "The family was really supportive," she shared. "I think I got one of the best families I could have gotten here."

Anyone interested in becoming an exchange student host family can contact Greg Pyles, a placement coordinator with the American Councils for International Education, at (217) 872-7827.

The exchange program tried to prepare Khashchyna and students like her for their experiences in the United States. The only difference that she really noticed was the legal driving age, which in her country is 18.

"Here, everybody goes to school by car … that was really different," she said. "But I don't think that there was anything that I was completely shocked by."

Khashchyna became involved in the exchange experience through her school, which specializes in foreign language. For the last 11 years, the school has had ongoing competitions to select

I ♥ AMERICA
I ♥ AMERICA

Whitney Moore made a very special gift for her departing exchange sister, a red, white and blue quilt with photo images of the two teens and their collective family and friends in Maroa. Photo courtesy of Dewitt County Constitution and Jeanine Shaw.

Courtesy of Dewitt County Constitution /Jeanine Shaw
Sixteen-year-old Ukranian exchange student Oleksandra "Sasha" Khashchyna spent the last year living in Maroa with the Moore family. Starting from the left, Oleksandra "Sasha" Khashchyna, Whitney Moore, Kim Moore and David Moore taken outside the Moore home at 132 North Wood Street. Now, after building friendships and memories, the family has to let the girl who has become a part of their lives go back home.

high-schoolers to be exchange students. The rigorous evaluation involves essays, exams and lengthy personal interviews. Khashchyna laughed, "If you pass that, then you have to fill out a big, big application packet."

The biggest adjustment for the teen was the experience of living in a small town. "This is a really tiny city for me," she said, "because I'm from a big city with 380,000 people."

The agrarian Midwest surroundings were something to get used to as well. "I live right on the Crimean Peninsula, so I have sea and mountains," Khashchyna explained. "It was definitely different than what I was used to.

She said that when she arrived in Maroa a year ago, the reality of being away from her family in the Ukraine for so long hadn't really set in yet. "It really didn't feel like I was going to spend a whole year here, it felt more like one of those summer trips," Khashchyna shared. "But once I got here, it was one month, two months, three months - and I thought 'oh, my gosh, I really am going to spend a whole year here!'"

Khashchyna is a very good student and speaks four languages fluently: Ukrainian, Russian, English and French. She was even able to tutor a friend of the Moore family, a woman who has adopted two Russian children, in the Russian language.

The weekend before her plane trip, Khashchyna shared that she had mixed feelings about leaving. "I definitely don't want to leave because of friends and family I've made," she said. "But on the other hand, I'm so ready to go ... I miss my other friends and my family. So it's really kind of hard because I'm anxious to go, but I want to stay at the same time."

Khashchyna will enter her senior year of high school in the fall. After that she plans to attend the university in Kiev, where she will most likely move to attend classes. She intends to major in international relations, but hasn't yet decided on which job path she wants to pursue.

Despite her busy schedule over the next few years, Khashchyna said she would like to come back to visit the Moores. As a gift to the family she had been part of for a year, Khashchyna presented them with a framed verse entitled "You Are Like Family to Me."

The poem talked about the family bond that can form between people and ended with the simple phrase, "I am so grateful you are like family to me."

Kim Moore said that after she read it, she was so touched and overcome that "it just wiped me out."

In return, Whitney Moore had made a red, white and blue quilt to give to Khashchyna before she boarded the plane for her trip back to the Ukraine. The handmade gift was interspersed with silk-screened photo images of the two teens and the family that they shared in Maroa.

The Moores have been enriched by the hosting experience and would recommend to other families. "We've been blessed with the most tremendous human beings, kids that are beyond their years in knowledge," said Kim Moore. "We've been exposed to all these different cultures and never left home. It's just amazing."

"I think it educates everybody to knowing that there's more than just Decatur or Clinton or Forsyth," said David Moore. "We think of going to Indiana, St. Louis, Chicago - Sasha came all the way from the Ukraine ... There's more than just this state or this country."

MIDWEST GREENHOUSE OPENS ITS DOORS IN 2004

On March 26 and 27 of 2004, Midwest Greenhouse, held its official ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house. Over 3,000 people from the community poured out to see this new 10-acre hydroponic bell pepper greenhouse production facility and thousands of bell peppers nearly ready for harvest. The greenhouse is located one mile north of Maroa in DeWitt County.

"This $7 million facility is a state-of-the-art glass hydroponic greenhouse", said Steve Wentworth, chairman of the Midwest Greenhouse executive committee. "130,000 bell pepper plants will produce approximately 2.5 million pounds of red, yellow and orange bell peppers annually." Instead of growing in soil, hydroponic plants grow in a climate-controlled environment in rockwool, a water-soaked sponge-like material that produces a high quality bell pepper without the use of chemicals. Midwest Greenhouse uses biologicals to control pests and bumblebees to enhance pollination. Excess irrigation water and nutrients fed to the plants and leached from the rockwool is recirculated and reused within the system. During cold weather, the greenhouse is heated with a boiler system burning used motor oil to heat water circulated in nearly 70 miles of pipe within the greenhouse.

"After the official groundbreaking on March 28, 2003 and months of construction, it is great to be producing bell peppers", said Ron Walberg, general manager of Midwest Greenhouse. "The first seedling plants arrived in late December 2003, and we are now within a couple weeks of our first harvest", said Walberg. "We are growing red, yellow and orange bell peppers. These are sweet bell peppers with higher sugar content than green bell peppers. Our focus will be to produce the highest quality bell peppers possible."

"Midwest Greenhouse is currently employing 35 full-time employees and may need additional people as harvesting and packaging commences," said Walberg. "We have received tremendous interest from people in the area, and we are happy to provide employment for people needing jobs. Our current employees are a great group of individuals and are working hard to build the success of this new company."

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Tom Dorr, USDA senior advisor to the Secretary of Agriculture, was present and addressed the attendees. "Creating jobs and improving quality of life are the cornerstones of President Bush's commitment to rural America," said Dorr. "The entrepreneurs who have developed this venture are to be commended for their leadership in supporting economic opportunity for this area."

Dorr along with USDA Rural Development State Director Douglas Wilson presented Midwest Greenhouse with the 2004 Business Innovator Award for exemplifying the entrepreneurial spirit of the 21st Century and fostering rural development in Illinois. This is the first of what will be an annual award to recognize a business with which USDA Rural Development has worked that can serve as an example and provide inspiration to potential rural entrepreneurs. "Midwest Greenhouse has shown great vision and excellent organizational skills in developing and building this project," said Wilson. "Their embracing innovation and moving quickly from concept to operation show how farmers and rural communities can capture new opportunities and bring them to life."

"Support from the USDA, Illinois State Treasurer, State of Illinois DCEO and DeWitt County has been tremendous," said Steve Wentworth. "We extend a big thank you to them for all their great support. Their support was instrumental in making this project a reality and for bringing it to Illinois." The USDA provided a grant from the Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grant program, and provided a loan guarantee through the Business and Industry Loan Guarantee program. Through the Alternative Agriculture Loan program, the Illinois State Treasurer's office provided Midwest Greenhouse with lower interest link deposit funds through Commerce Bank. The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) provided a linked development grant for equipment purchase. The DeWitt County Board supported Midwest Greenhouse with tax abatements and installed two entrances onto the property. The DeWitt County Economic Development Committee contributed with a grant for site engineering expenses. In addition, the Farm Bureaus of Macon and DeWitt County and the University of Illinois Extension in Macon County provided support to the project.

Bell peppers from Midwest Greenhouse will be marketed to grocery stores throughout a 25 state area in the central United States.

The Midwest Greenhouse facility is a complex that consists of three main interconnected structures. The primary structure is a 10-acre glass hydroponic greenhouse where 130,000 bell pepper plants are grown to produce approximately 2.5 million pounds of red, yellow and orange bell peppers each year.

The greenhouse is supported by a 16,770 square foot glass mechanical and irrigation structure that contains two boilers, a backup generator, a CO2 vaporizer, water storage tanks, reverse osmosis machine and nutrient mixing and pumping machinery.

The third structure and is a 100 x 150 foot Chief brand steel building used for packaging bell peppers and for office, lunch room and storage space.

The greenhouse itself is 624 feet from east to west, 667 feet from north to south with 17 foot tall sidewalls. All the glass is 4 millimeters thick safety glass. With the gable style construction of the roof, there is approximately 800,000 square feet (18 acres) of glass in the roof and an additional 44,000 square feet in the sidewalls.

The heating system is furnished by two 650 hp boilers that can burn four different types of fuels- used oil, natural gas, diesel fuel, or beef tallow. This facility burns used motor oil and has diesel fuel as a backup fuel source at this time. These boilers can produce 63 million BTU's per hour. They will heat water in the closed system to temperatures of 190 degrees Fahrenheit. This hot water flows through nearly 70 miles of pipes located on the floor, sidewalls and ceiling of the greenhouse. This provides radiant heat for the crop, but the floor pipes also provide a rail system for the equipment needed to harvest and groom the plants. To maintain the temperature, shade curtains are used in the winter and cooler months to reduce heat loss at night. They are also used in the summer months to reduce daytime heat from entering the greenhouse.

Window vents are located on both sides of the roof peaks at even spacing to allow heat to leave the greenhouse during warmer months. Fine mesh screening is attached to each window vent on the roof to help prevent unwanted insects from entering the greenhouse. It takes 312,000 gallons of water to irrigate the plants. Excess irrigation water not used by the plants is recycled back through the system. It is cleaned and reformulated with fresh water and nutrients to meet the requirements of the plants. Plants are placed on rockwool slabs positioned on rows of gutters that are suspended from the roof trusses.

A main computer controls every aspect of the greenhouse operation. Greenhouse temperatures, humidity, irrigation quantity and scheduling, CO2 levels, sunlight amounts are some of the functions monitored and controlled by the computer. Each quadrant of the greenhouse is monitored and can be managed separately. A weather station on-site provides necessary data to the computer. All these production factors are monitored and kept in balance by the Head Grower. This production system is environmentally friendly. Beneficial insects are used to control harmful insects that may get into the greenhouse. Excess irrigation water is reclaimed and reused. Rainwater from the roof is contained in a holding pond and allowed to drain naturally through underground tile. Bumblebees are used to assist in pollinating the crop.

Packaging is completed in the packhouse. This building is a 100' x 150' x 20' steel structure that is insulated and lined on the inside. This building's primary function is to provide an area for packaging and shipping the produce. Cool storage may be built within this facility as needed. The company's offices, employee break room and storage of production and packaging supplies are in this building. There are approximately 35 full-time employees to work, harvest and package the peppers.

"Midwest Greenhouse looks forward to being a good neighbor in the Maroa community for many years to come and to provide much needed employment," said Walberg. "Looking into the future, we hope to expand with another 10-acre greenhouse in a few years and employ even more people."

MIDWEST GREENHOUSE

Midwest Greenhouse
is pleased to
provide 35
new jobs
in the
Maroa community.

Congratulations on 150 years of progress.

TIDBITS

I like Maroa because it is a small town that like to help each other and helping each other out even if they don't know you.

Karen Halicki

Karen Halicki shared a funny story about living near Maroa. When she was first helping my husband farm, I was on a tractor discing the field, and I found a soft spot and got stuck. I never saw so many cars come by my farm since we had moved out there. I stopped and had to pull the tractor out, then pull out the disc.

I am looking forward to everyone coming out and enjoying themselves. There have been wonderful people here helping and getting ready for this.

Karen Halicki

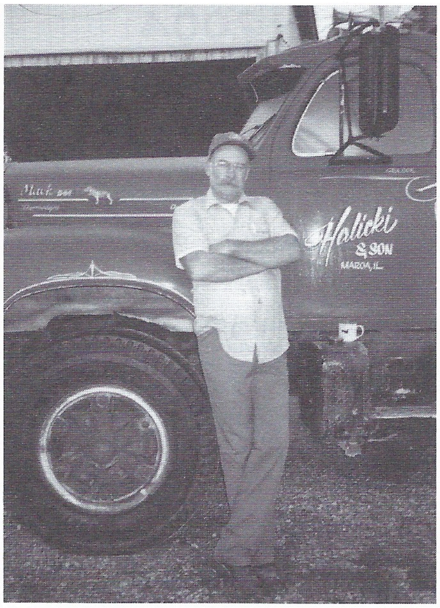
A 2004 FARMER

Steve Halicki

"Every year in August, before everybody gets real busy, we have a beef roast here with over 100 people coming from all around". "That's one of the special times here on the farm".

Steve was driving a truck for a living when his father Caz died in the fall of 1981, and in 1982 Steve and wife, Karen, came back to the farm. A three generation farm had to be kept producing and Steve was the son to take on this profession. He continues to drive a truck and farm. The commodities he hauls are usually processed grains so He sees how the trucking and farming are related.

He remembers how corn was always harvested on the ear and there were very few herbicides. Of course that has all changed. Technology has moved in but mostly for the large farming operations. A favorite time of the farming year for Steve is cultivating time – a peaceful time, not hurried, and the crops are looking good as they are beginning to grow. On the other hand, harvest is as stressful as it gets, Steve continued. With farming there is so much that happens that can't be controlled – weather, etc. – but you accept it and go on. In the future we will see bigger farms and fewer farmers. And I hope in time to come, we will see better prices and more acceptance of genetic engineering on the plants. The progress in the processing plants has increased so much – in a good year all the corn I grow would now take Staleys about 15 minutes to process.



Steve Halicki 2004

" I look back at my dad and how he could put three children through college and still buy a new tractor". But, Steve continues, "even though this life is not all that profitable, it's still a good way of life". "If you want to live a good life, this is the way to do it".

Steve and Karen's son, John will enter the marines after his graduation from High School in 2005.

In the spring of 1983, Maroa Ag opened the doors to the farmers of Macon and Dewitt counties for their fertilizer and crop protection needs. The first manager, Don Tibbs, was heavily involved in the community, and with his leadership Maroa Ag took off and has not looked back since that spring over twenty years ago. Today Maroa Ag remains steadfast in the community and supports numerous local activities and school events. We remain strong stewards of both the environment and of our community and would like to thank all of our wonderful patrons who have supported us through both years past and years to come.

Maroa Ag
Ph 794-5117 or 794-5532
40 Ag Road
Maroa, IL

Congratulations to Maroa on it's 150th anniversary celebration.

A FARMER IN 2004

Jim Stoutenborough

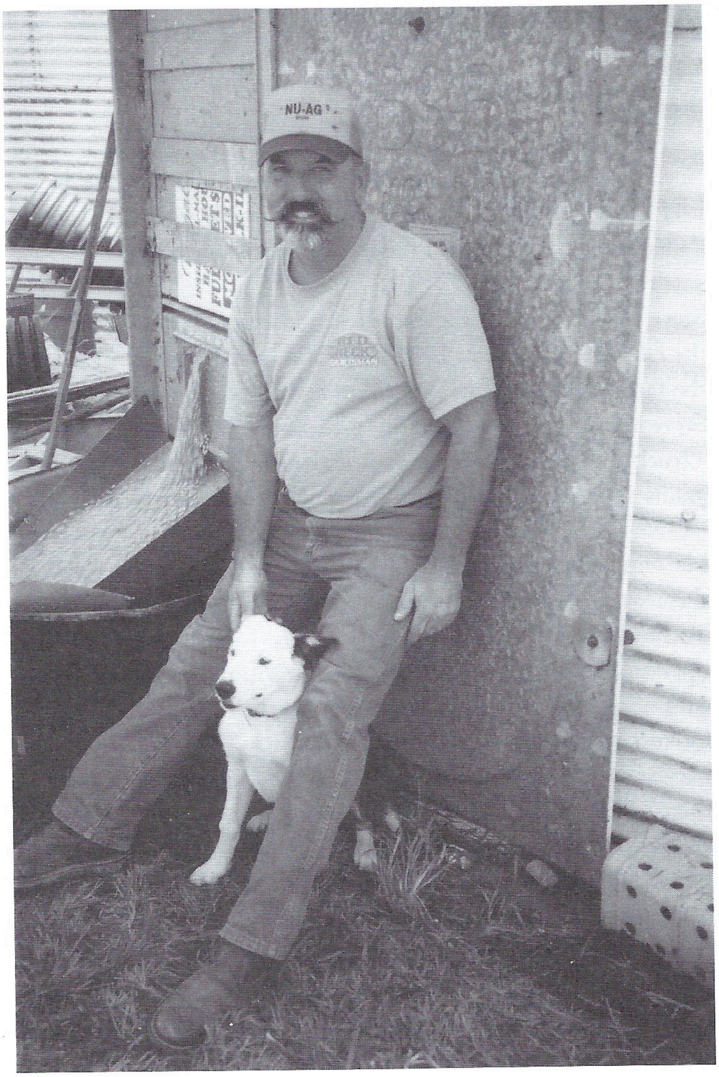
Jim begins by saying , " Farming fell into my lap with the sickness and death of my father", Chuck Stoutenborough. We live on a 3rd generation farm and I always wanted to farm and didn't have any reservations then but now that we've seen tough and good times you sometimes look back and see that you've give 20 years of your life and some days I ask if I'm gaining at the pace of other people our age.

It hits close to home when you see out of town mega farmers coming into our area buying ground at high prices and the young farmer can't jump in and stay in. They are coming in and taking away local farms. We do, though, still have a community of small farmers helping one another. I've always wanted any of my boys to continue farming but I have mixed emotions if it's the right thing. I'm not sure the future is all that stable. I worry about their welfare in this corporate world. High technology is a big part of our farming operation and the expense is beyond being economical. It has to show that we can improve the production for the cost of return. At the same time, for the investment and hours we put into our profession, the pay-off is partly pride and the fact that we are feeding the world. This keeps us going.

Farming is a little like deer hunting. When it's no longer fun – why do it. It's the same with farming – when the joy is gone, you question. What's the purpose of continuing on with the stress of competing with the new ways of farming?

When asked about a highlight of his farming years Jim shared that 1986 was a good year. His youngest son, Tyler was born in July and in November he was involved in the hay express to South Carolina during Thanksgiving. He helped deliver hay to a drought-stricken area. He also met President Reagan in Springfield that year at the state fair grounds.

Jim added that he has always raised cattle and wanted his sons, Troy, Travis and Tyler to show livestock. As their interests changed one son showed cattle, one horses and the other hogs. At the present time, they are raising females to sell. It's always exciting to see the new-born calves. Last year they topped the national sale in Louisville, Kentucky with a 6-month old heifer they raised.



Jim Stoutenborough - 2004

When Jim was asked what was his favorite time of the farming year he replied "combining corn" "I love to sit in that combine and I always hate for it to end".

His hope for the future - stabilization of world economics. A pattern back into the system that we can count on.

Jim feels he was very lucky to be born here in Maroa and be with the people he lives around and go to church with. He said he knew a lot of people around the country but he was always anxious to get back home.

And he closed with, "We see a cycle of life every year - it's a part of our livelihood".

"FARMING WITH PRIDE – FOR PROFIT"

I still clearly remember the day in April of '97 when I laid my burdensome key ring on my boss's desk and said, "I'm going to plant corn". During the previous sixteen years in the business world as a farm manager and a fair manager the thought never once crossed my mind about returning to the farm – but that was where I was headed. It was three more years before Dad turned the operation over to me and four more before farming would be my only vocation. Now, there is no place I would rather be than on the seat of a piece of farm equipment.

My favorite time of the crop year has to be after planting. Sounds odd, but I get the most satisfaction from walking the corn and soybean fields once the stand is established. Corn and soybean production starts with planting the seed, and you only get one chance to do it right. Oh sure, there is a lot more to do before the crop is "made", but we have very little control over the most important element of crop production – the weather. So I know I have done the best I can when I survey a "picket fence" stand of corn and a solid blanket of soybeans.

Farming in the 21st century presents today's farmer with a completely different set of challenges compared to the ones my Dad, his Dad, and his Dad faced. The seed used to come from last year's production. Now we must choose the right biotech event, add the best seed treatment, and leave a refuge for non-harmful insects. Weed control was constant cultivation. Now it is bundled herbicide programs for specific weed problems, safe to the crop, and with the best guarantee. Harvest was put it in the crib or the bins in the barn for later use or sale. Now we must segregate and maintain purity to ensure marketability. Cultivation was a four-horse team and a plow. Now it's a four-wheel drive (that can steer itself) and a variety of tillage options. After all that, there are at least three trips to the FSA office for stacks and stacks of paper work. Don't let me mislead you into thinking I would trade today's technological and mechanized way of farming for a much simpler method, but I find that keeping up with all the possibilities and applying them correctly the most challenging.

Since I don't have that many experiences to draw from I'll have to relate a shared "Best Time" of my short farming career. In 2000, the year Dad officially retired, he, or we, produced the best corn crop in his fifty years of farming. Three of the five farms growing corn that year topped the 200-bushel per acre mark. When we tallied up all the grain sheets, he said with a smile, "When I started fifty years ago 100 bushel per acre was the benchmark – I doubled it." Those special times make you forget the wagonload of corn you emptied on the backside of the bin or the load of cattle you dumped over on the way to the stockyards. In farming, the bad experiences can be numerous and the good ones few, but a farmer's positive attitude allows them to learn from the bad and revile in the good.

Tom Rogers

In closing, while word processing (more technology) these thoughts one simple and personal thought rose to the top of my churning mind. I am proud to be part of a four-generation legacy entrusted to care for one of God's greatest creations - the land and honored to be part of an industry whose mission is to feed the world. Farming is a life and a business that those before me, Louis, Clayton, and John, gave me the opportunity to choose, continue, and prosper. That's why I am "Farming with Pride – for Profit".

Centennial Farm - Rogers

LOCOMP

LOCOMP was started in December 1993 in the old Mobile Gas Station. They sell custom-built computers, software and accessories and service all makes and models of Personal Computers as well as assist with network design and installation services.

They started a local Internet Service Provider (ISP) in 1998 with a 56K-baud dial up access for anyone in the 794 local dialing area.

Brian Lopez decided to start the LOCOMP business since he was already repairing computers. Then, the computers were mostly 12 Megahertz, 256 K to 2 Meg of Ram. If they had a hard drive they generally had a 10 Meg. The rest had 5 ¼ or 3 ½ inch floppy drives. Some had 300 and 1200 baud modems. Currently most people are purchasing a Pentium 4 with 2.8 to 3.2 Gigahertz, a minimum of 512 Meg of RAM, with some up to 2 Gig of RAM. Hard drives are generally around the 200 Gig size. 56K modems are still being used in Maroa and other very small towns. People in larger towns are generally on Cable modems, DSL, or wireless access. These are generally hooked up via a 100 MB Fast Ethernet card. Few people are actually running Gigabit networks.

In 2004 LOCOMP's busiest time is November and December as customers purchase computers for Christmas gifts. LOCOMP currently has five employees: CJ Coffman, Amy Lopez, Julia McDuffie, Elizabeth McDuffie, and Heather Lopez. You can contact them at (217) 794-5561 or email brian.lopez@locomp.net.

WOOD ST. CAR WASH

The Wood Street Car Wash on the corner of Wood and McKinley.

WOOD STREET CAR WASH

In 1995, John Martin, of Kenney, Illinois, purchased the car wash building on South Wood Street from David Gardner. The building had originally been built by Lester Kelly, who most of us remember as having run the Mobile Station at the same location.

John works in Decatur at his "day job" and wanted to expand his business interests.

He had worked during the 1960's for M. H. Stein at his Clinton Dairy Queen and Car Wash businesses. The opportunity to own his own car wash was too great to pass up!

During the last nine years, John has installed a new high pressure pump, hot water wash, spot free rinse, vacuums, and repaved the lot with asphalt. The service and convenience of a local car wash is greatly appreciated by the citizens of Maroa and the surrounding area.

MAROA LUMBER COMPANY

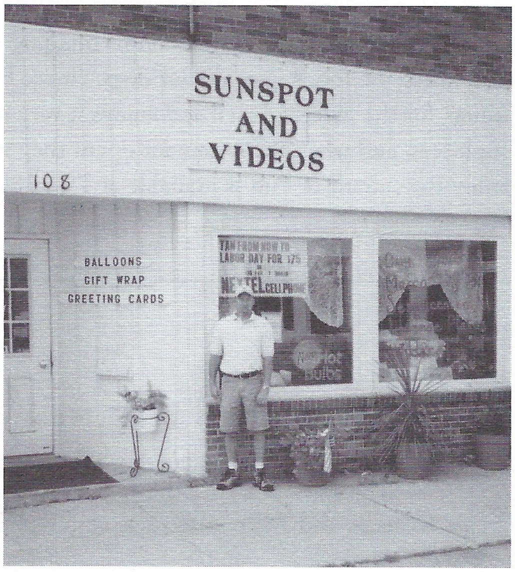
The Maroa Lumber Company moved into its present location at 229 E. Main in March, 1983. It was at this time that they also joined with "Do It Best" hardware stores to offer a more complete line of home improvement/hardware products to complement their lumber business. Charles Hamilton and his son, Dennis, presently run the business. Charles came to Maroa in 1955 to enter into the lumber business with George R. Austin. Mr. Austin had purchased the lumber business from the Myers/Dewhurst family. Charles and "G. R." ran the business together until the early 1960's, at which time Charles bought the entire business. The first building was located at 305 E. Main, the sight of the former freight warehouse for the railroad. This building is still in use as a storage facility for Maroa Lumber.

Charles has been employed in the lumber business since he was 16 years old, when he got his first job in Forrest, Illinois. At the time of his business affiliation with Mr. Austin, he was working at the Allen Lumber Co., Wenona, Illinois. Dennis began working at the company part time in 1968, and upon college graduation returned to Maroa to help run the business. The third generation is now employed as "summer help", Charles' grandson Andrew (a student at Eastern Illinois University) helps where needed in the daily operations. Bryan Pister is also presently employed at the company.

MAROA LUMBER CO
HOME

Maroa Lumber Company at 229 East Main Street. Left to right: Dennis Hamilton, Andrew Hamilton and Charles Hamilton.

SUN SPOT

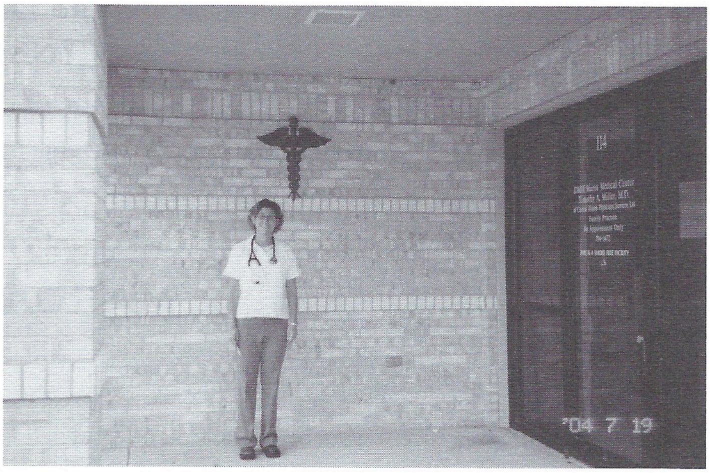


The SunSpot at 108 East Main Street. Owner Dave Burnett is pictured.

The Sun Spot is currently owned by Dave and Gynnie Burnett. The Burnetts purchased the business at 108 E. Main from Richard Young in April, 2001. Not only does the business offer tanning beds, but they also feature video rentals, balloon bouquets, small gifts and crafts, and are the local agent for Nextel. The Sun Spot employs Cathy Keyes and Gynnie's mother, Darlene Goodman helps when needed.

The building itself is the former sight of the Maroa Public Library, which moved to a new building on McKinley Street. It is also interesting to note that this was the location of the U. S. Post Office before the new facility was built at 200 E. Main. Mrs. Ona Terrell owned the building and then sold it to the library for their use.

DR. TIM MILLER



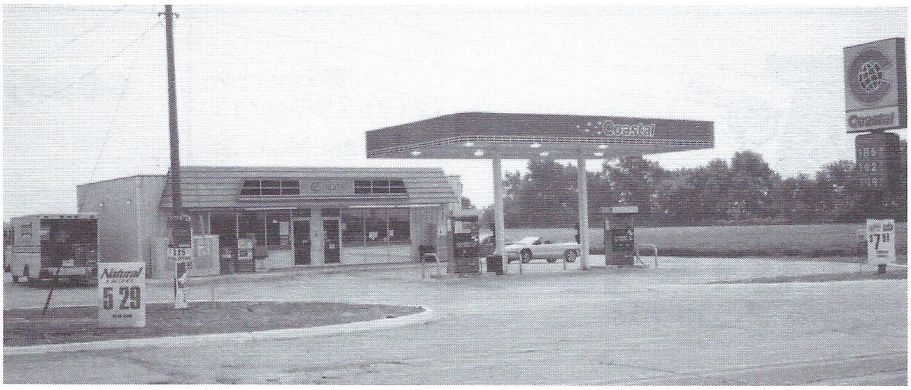
Dr Tim Miller's office at 114 East Main Street. Nicole Dalton is the Physician's Assistant Certified pictured in front of the building.

Dr. Miller began his practice in Maroa in 1996. "Dr. Tim" attended high school in Maroa and is the son of Millie Peart. His practice is affiliated with Decatur Memorial Hospital and is located at 114 E. Main. The sight of the present office building, completed in 1996, is located where Dr. W. L. Terrell practiced medicine for many, many years. Nicole Dalton, PAC, assists Dr. Miller with his patients. There nine employees that "rotate" between the Maroa and Forsyth offices. While many small communities do not have any medical facility, Maroa is proud to be able to boast of having a true "hometown" physician.

COASTAL

The Coastal Store at 502 S. Wood has been a part of Maroa for many years under various names. The Country Market was first located here and it was followed by Huck's.

Coastal (main office located in Lincoln, Illinois) purchased the business in the late 1980's and has been serving the Maroa community every since. Tish Larson has been the manager for many years. In 1998, a storm badly damaged the store, but it was soon repaired. New gas tanks and an awning were installed. Approximately seven people are employed at the business. As of this writing gas is quickly approaching $2.00 per gallon ($1.86). When Tish was first employed, the price was . The cost of cigarettes is $3.42 per pack.



Coastal Gas is one of two gas stations in Maroa in 2004. It is on the south east corner of Wood and Jefferson.

NOW AND THEN

Now and Then was started by Darrel Corrington on October 1, 2003 and is currently at 107 West Main St. The building had been a grocery store, Star Market in a past life. The bar is open and sells liquors and a variety of foods, pizza's, hot dogs, cheese breads, beer and cocktails are the main items. Darrel has been involved in this type of business for the past 45 years, and enjoys it very much. The winter, fall and spring tend to be the busiest times. They currently have 10 employees, and when the restaurant opens they will employ 20-25 people. Don't forget they now offer Limo service. FireHouse #2 Family Restaurant & Pub is available at 794-3800.
Give them a try!

MAROA TIDBITS

James H. Parker came to DeWitt County in 1853 with his parents and Mr. and Mrs. Garret Stoutenborough. They built a small house on a farm in the Kenney neighborhood and lived together for five years. Mr. Parker married Emma Shaw in 1871. They moved to Maroa in 1887. After Mrs. Parker's death, he married Lula Ferrill and to them were born two children. Mr. Parker died in 1924 at the age of 78.

John P. Parker (1853-1923), a brother of James H., came to Maroa as a farmer and stock dealer. He opened the first garage in Maroa and with his son, James, had the Haynes Auto Agency.

Levi Allsbury was born in Cabal County, West Virginia in 1823. His parents came to Sangamon County in 1825 and lived in a log cabin in the present heart of Springfield. The father sold his ten acres of land for $150 and took in payment a yoke of oxen, a cow and a pony. In 1864 Mr. Allsbury moved to a farm five miles west of Maroa and in 1885 moved in to town. His wife was Mary Hodgerson. Henry, Mary, Rebecca and Alice were their children. He died in 1916.

Christian Trummel (1844-1914) was a native of the Province of Nassau, Germany. His parents brought the family to Illinois in 1865. They first settled near Peru and later moved to a farm northeast of Maroa. Mr. Trummel married Rosina Ehling, a native of Saxony, Germany, in 1870. To this union seven children were born: Emma (Groves), Lewis, Etta (Myers), Minnie (Thomas), Bertha (Marsh), Anna (Rainey), and Christian E.

James M. Biddle was born in Kentucky in 1847. He came to Illinois as a farmer in 1863 and moved to Maroa in 1883. For many years he was Maroa's City Marshal, a popular and capable man. He died in 1931.

SHARON'S
Style Boutique

Phone
(217) 794-3711
230 East Main St.
Maroa, IL 61756

Tuesday	8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday	8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday	8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Saturday	Special Occasions

GOODYEAR

GOODYEAR • MULTI-MILE
KELLY SPRINGFIELD TIRES

"Invite Us To Your Next Flat"
WALKER TIRE
COMPLETE ON THE FARM SERVICE
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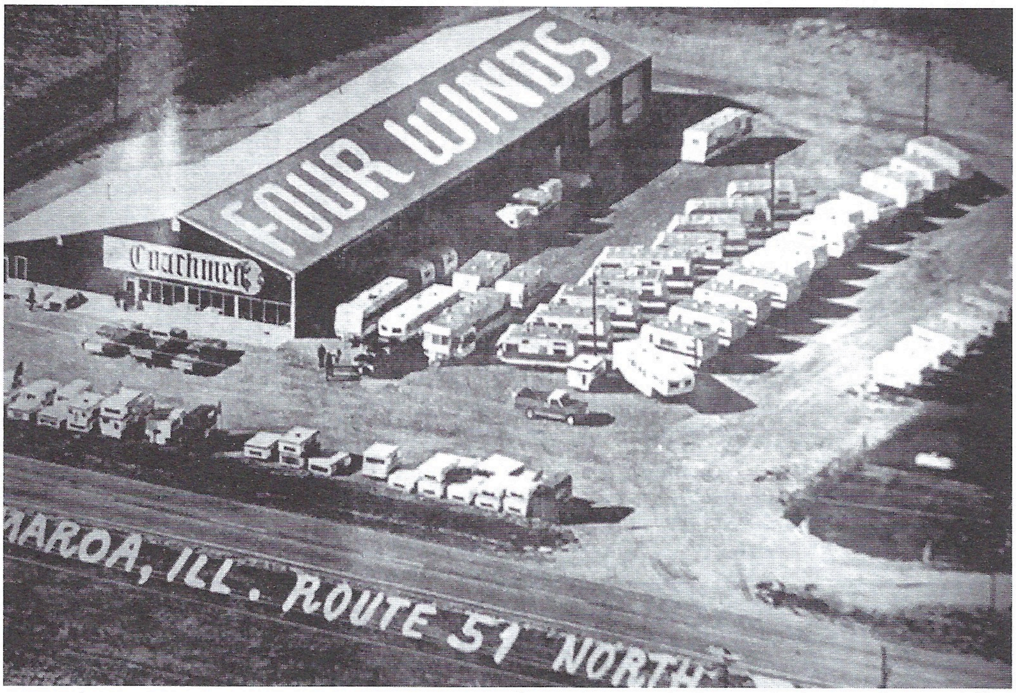
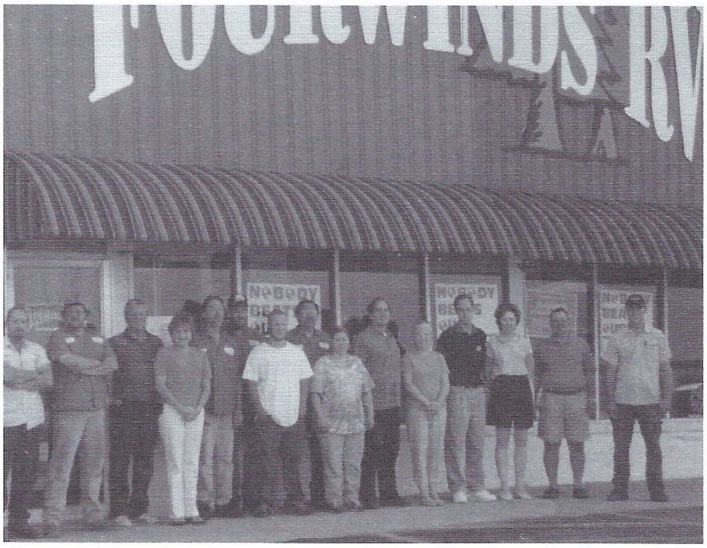
FOURWINDS OF AMERICA, INC.

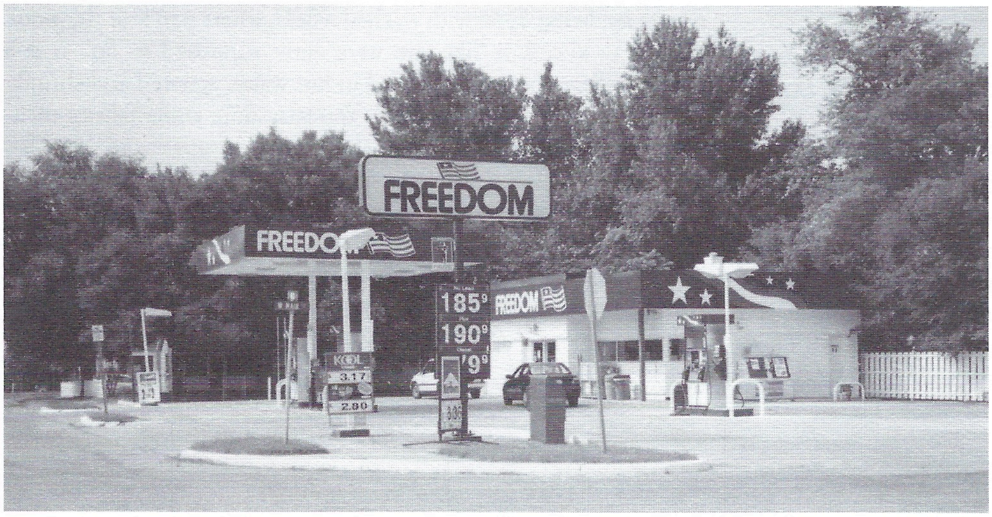


Picture of Four Winds RV from the air.

In 1971, a recreational vehicle dealership was created in Maroa and was opened under the name of Fourwinds of America, Inc. Pete Koyak was working for Coachmen Manufacturing in Indiana during the 1970's. He and a business partner discovered that there was a dealership, Fourwinds, for sale and decided to go into business. In 1985, Pete bought out his partner and has been the sole owner since. From tent campers to motorhomes, Fourwinds has an RV for everyone. The service department is equipped with a 40 Ton lift, which enables them to easily do hitch work, install leveling systems, etc. The dealership is mainly a "towable" dealer and sells more travel trailers and tent campers than other products. Fourwinds is open year around for sales, service and parts. The busiest time is from the middle of February to the beginning of October. The business is located at 15277 North Wood St. and employs sixteen people. "Campers" from all over the Midwest are familiar with Maroa's Fourwinds of America!



The Four Winds RV staff from Left to right: John Palchak, Kevin Gregory, Bill Guthrie, Dave Peavler, John Leach, John Halicki, Rick King, Deb Peavler, Kevin Kuykendall, Heidi McKinnis, Pete Koyak Jr (General Manager, VP), Merribeth Koyak, Pete Koyak Sr (owner), Justin Parrott. Not pictured was Pat Ohlemeyer.

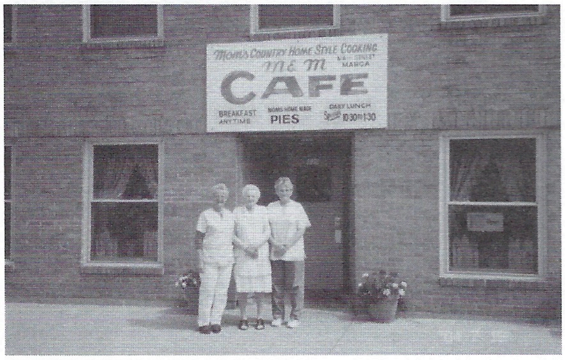


This is the gas station on the south west corner of Main and Wood street. It used to be a Sinclair station.

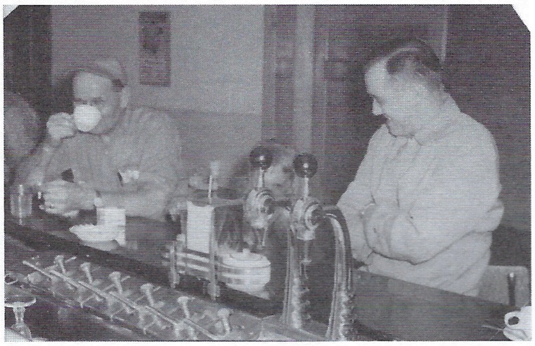
M & M CAFE

WHERE THE PIES ARE PERFECT

Ina Fugate was born January 29,1914, just southeast of Bible Grove, Illinois. She was one of twelve children, the oldest of the girls, and she learned early on how to keep house and cook. So, it is not surprising that today she still enjoys cooking and sewing. Ina cooked in nursing homes until retirement in the fall of 1984. She decided she didn't want to drive on the winter roads any longer. But that all changed in February of 1985, when her daughters decided to go into the restaurant business. The first position that needed to be filled was the cooks job. Who better to fill this position than Mom. So out of retirement she came and since then she has been baking and cooking six mornings a week at the M & M Cafe turning out those homemade goodies!



M&M café at the community center at 119 West Main Street. Left to right: Linda Miller, Ina Fugate, Brenda Osborn.



The current M&M café but back in 1950's the soda fountain was the hot spot! On the right is Mr. Coen, and Red Smith is drinking the coffee. He was the janitor of the school.

SWEETHEARTS GIFTS AND SWEETHEARTS CERAMICS

Sweethearts gifts started in March 1991 at 115 West Main street, Sweethearts Ceramics started July 1999 at 223 East Main Street.

The 115 West Main street location was a barber shop prior to our purchase. The 223 East Main was Hines Variety store prior to our purchase.

At 115 West Main, our business is Country crafts and ceramics and painting classes. At 223 East Main we sell retail and wholesale ceramics. We started the business for retirement, and it is a seasonally busy time with Christmas being the busy time. There are no additional employees. The phone number is 794-5321 at the East Main store.

Carolyn and Donald Sennhenn wish to thank their fellow Maroa citizens.

COUNTRY LACE AND WOOD CREATIONS

Country Lace & Wood Creations

Country Lace and Wood Creations at 111 West Main Street.

Country lace and Wood creations has been at its current location at 111 West Main Street since 1994 when Ruth and Al Darelius purchased the existing building. The business has stayed similar since the beginning. It is a diversified business that does engraving on anything from paper to rocks and everything in between. They have engraved metal, wood, and plastics. Engraving rocks are popular either as garden memorials or for pet gravestones. The engraving on the bricks for the Maroa Public Library patio were done by Country Lace and Wood Creations. The business has done work for a designer of paper cuts. Creating awards and trophies is another vital part of the business.

Needlework supplies from cross-stitch to yarn for knitting and crochet can be purchased at Country Lace and Wood Creations. Both areas of the business have really grown since the business started. The different areas do compliment each other such that when one is slow, the other is busy. The yarn part is always busy, slower in the spring and early summer as people are working in their gardens, but once it gets hot, then business picks back up as people look for little projects to work on. Sometimes both businesses are busy at the same time. The newest thing is the initiative for people to be knitting scarves with the novelty yarns. It gets people back into knitting that have not knitted in a while as well as teaches people to knit who have not learned before. Some techniques are being done with washed wools, where you knit the wool, wash it to shrink it 'like you were never supposed to do'. It is a process where the item is placed in hot water, agitated and shrunk. It is referred to as boiled wool. You may note some fabrics mentioning boiled wool on the label.

There are 3 employees with Country Lace and Wood Creations.

The building was at different times in the past, a restaurant, and Montgomery's grocery store, and several lumberyards.

SOY CITY SOCK COMPANY

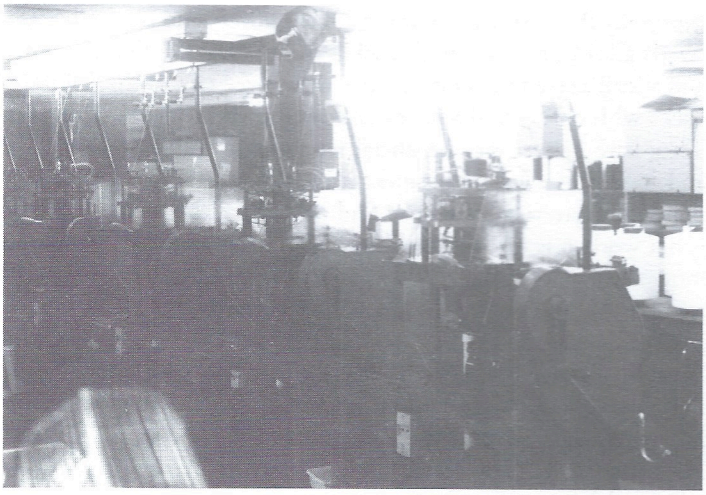
When David and Rhonda Camfield were approached by Mount Pulaski Products to ask them if they could produce a white sleeve that looked like a sock, Dave answered "sure". Rhonda was not so sure they could accomplish the task. However that little episode in 1991 would eventually evolve from making socks as a hobby for the feet of relatives and friends 'because the machinery was interesting' into something more. As I talked to Rhonda at their office of Soy City Sock Company at 15343 North Wood Street, it seemed amazing to even the owners the transformation their company had made in such a relatively short period of time.

Within a year of making sleeves, the word got out and David and Rhonda had to make a decision. Either stop with part time sock making, or quit their 'regular' day jobs and work full time at their fledgling company, Soy City Sock. They both decided to quit their full time jobs, and work full time in their new business. The work came their way so quickly that in 1992 they purchased the old P and E Hatchery buildings from Mr. Reeser who had made concrete forms for grain bins. They purchased the buildings from him. They are only the third owners of the buildings located on North Wood Street. When they moved up there, the buildings seemed so large. Rhonda recalls how they would sit outside in the evening and listen to the wind blow over the buildings and wonder what we would ever do with all this space. "We never thought we would ever use all the space."

By the summer of 2000, the Camfields had to build a new warehouse (to the north), and bought out another company's absorbent division. With that came new machinery and new processes and products. Warehousing and distribution were then added, so the need for more space was evident. They bought an existing building in Decatur. After an arson fire in October of 2003, they needed to quickly find a building, and decided there was a need for a larger building. They were able to find the old General Cable building in Monticello where they quickly moved in. They were able to get their equipment and everything into the building. Fortunately, the machinery was very minimally damaged because the fire was well contained. Products were destroyed, and some office equipment was stolen or burned, and there was some structural damage as well. Fortunately, only about 1 week of production time was lost during that hectic time. Interestingly, in the new building in Monticello, there were three or four boxes of different absorbent products left behind, and Soy City Sock had made every one.

Today they manufacture and ship out semi-loads of products for distributors. They also private label a lot of items as well. So "even though they don't have our name on them, it goes all over". A typical order of absorbent socks, when they ship a semi-load would constitute 22-24 skids with at least 44 cases on each skid, and 40 socks in a case. Those 38,720 to 42,240 socks take only a fraction of the time that the first orders of 20,000 pieces took, and those first orders were for the sock only- no filler.

When they first bought the machines in 1989, Rhonda is convinced that Dave just found them interesting. Now they produce many different socks that contain different absorbents. As one of the few Midwest textile-knitting businesses, they have a unique position. Some of the different products include a sock that can absorb any liquid materials such as oil and water. However they also have an item which will absorb only oil and not water, which is a popular product for oil spill clean up situations. They also make absorbent pillows. Hazardous clean up absorbents and drip pans that are made with a special material so the acid will not eat through the sock material are also produced. At the Monticello plant, the Camfields make converting- which are the master rolls of absorbent where the rolls are then cut into pads. Spill catchers is another product that is made. Spill catchers are overseas containers that go to California and they are set near the water, and have some of every type of absorbent in them. So when you open the door one has a little warehouse of the absorbent. The Environmental Protection Agency mandates that the shorelines have a certain amount of absorbent on hand all the time. So that has been good for the business.



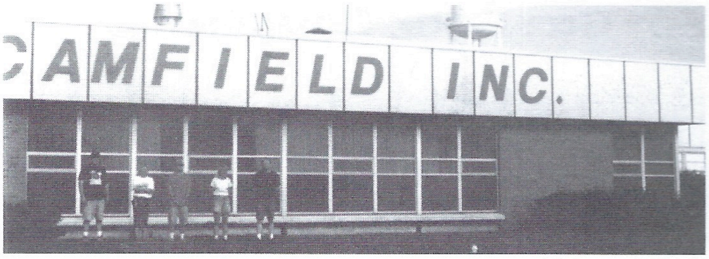
The Soy City Sock Company uses a variety of machines to create their absorbent socks. Her the machine's quickly work to knit the socks.

The Soy City Sock Company has some products that absorb oil and water or any liquid and some products that absorb only oil. One sleeve is knitted that can be used with acid products that will not get eaten up in a high acid content spill. The company currently offers over 16 different absorbent products.

The Soy City Sock company in Maroa in front of their Maroa plant. Left to right: John Shaw, Junior Furrow, Dave Camfield, Rhonda Camfield, Danny Stukins, Jamie (Pamela) Hoffman, Rodney Sinclair, Jerry Reinstorf.

Normally the business has about 18 employees and the business is steady all the time. Mount Pulaski Products was the first customer and is still a steady customer. They now have Soy City Sock fill the socks with corncob absorbent and send them a finished product. They have been a very beneficial relationship with Soy City Sock and have sent a lot of business to them. As Rhonda mentioned during the interview, when you find what you are supposed to do, it is not work, it is fun, you feel blessed, and the work comes, and the money works itself out. We don't do a lot of advertising, although we do enjoy sponsoring the Camfield Racing team.

Some spare time hobbies: Racing families. There are several families that have racing cars as their fun and recreation. Camfield Racing, with Dave and Rhonda Camfield as sponsors, is called "Open mini Midget" races. They race in Farmer City, Jacksonville, and Macon Speedway


CAMFIELD INC.

After the fire in their Decatur structure, Soy City then moved part of their operation to this Monticello facility. Left to right: Roger King, Amy McCoy, Derek Rossio, Diane Roberts, Dave Camfield Jr.

CATHY'S CUT "N CURL

Cathy's Cut and Curl was started by Cathy Marshall at her home, then moved to several locations on Main Street. Her previous locations were across the street in the current lawyers' office, then across the hall, then at the current location at 107 East Main Street.

2004 Cathy's Cut & Curl is run by Sherri Wetzel, here cutting Jean Hupp's hair.

Sherry Wetzel started cutting hair here in 1998. Sherry had worked in different towns. She had some jobs in Decatur. However she really likes being in Maroa. What she likes about working in Maroa "as opposed to when I was in Decatur, you have very dedicated customers. When I worked in Decatur, if there was a shut down, or strike, the business hurt. But in Maroa, we have dedicated customers. A lot of folks like to keep their business in town."

The business does not change an awful lot. Certainly the styles change, but if you wait long enough, you are cutting the same styles again. "I do a fair amount of men's haircuts. Shampoo and sets are about half of the business and perm and colors also make up almost half of the business. Family cuts (where everyone in the family comes in for their hair cut) makes up the balance of the business."

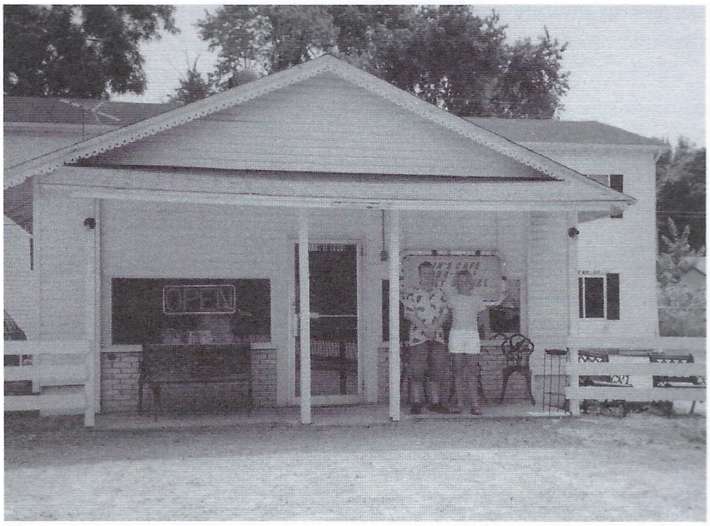
Business cycles are not many, but before the holidays tend to be busier. Generally the time before school is slow, and after the new year is a little slow. Also right before Easter is busy with people getting ready for the all school alumni banquet. At the current time, only Sherry works here.

In this location, there used to be Margaret King's Antique shop and before that The Prairie Post newspaper, where Kathryn Shirey was the editor.

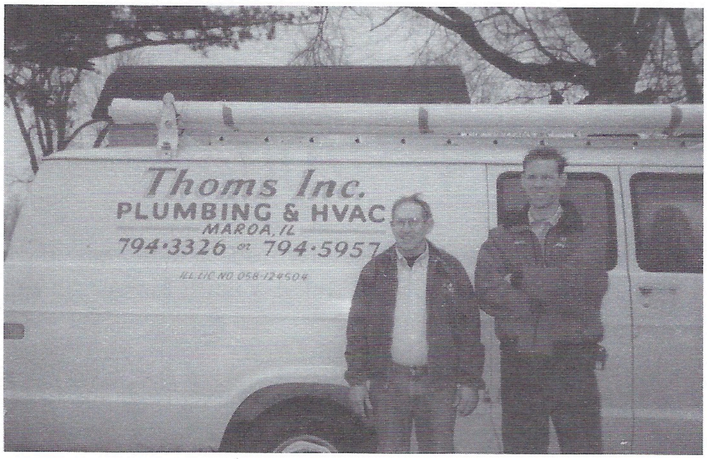
JR'S CAFÉ

Since November, 2002, Cara (Sinkosky) and Larry Goetz have operated Jr's Café.

The building is located at 110 S. Wood. Jr's offers sandwiches, ice cream, and pizza. The business is open year around. Larry's family runs a restaurant business and he gained his business knowledge and love of cooking from them. The building itself is leased from Bob Griffin. This particular location has been the home to many ice cream shops/restaurants. Most people identify the building as the "White Barn". Gerald Kitchens was the original owner and sold it to Loretta Marsh in 1979. Loretta ran the business until 1992. She added a grill and pizza to the ice cream only menu. Bob Griffin purchased the building from her. Since 1992, some of the tenants have been Sorrento's Pizza and Rick's.



Jr's Café with Larry and Cara Goetz. They are on 104 South Wood street.



Thoms Inc. Plumbing & HVAC

THOMS INC
PLUMBING HVAC
SEWER CLEANING
794 3326

Thoms, Inc. Plumbing and Heating on Hickory Street just north of Main Street.

STOUTENBOROUGH INSURANCE AGENCY

The insurance firm currently known as Stoutenborough Insurance Agency was established in 1880 by William Schenck. Robert Stoutenborough bought the firm and started his own agency. The business was at one time in the 'Crocker Bank Building', which in 2004 people would know as the Maroa Forsyth Community Bank on the northeast corner of Main and Walnut. Robert Stoutenborough was one of the founding board of directors for the Maroa Forsyth Community Bank.

Bill Ryan came to Stoutenborough agency in 1991,and bought the firm in 1994 when Bill (Robert's son) Stoutenborough retired. In 2004 the foundation of the business is farming and agriculture. Crop and farm insurance and other Ag services make up 40% of the business. Farm owner insurance is similar to a 'home owner' policy, but it insures the farm buildings and machine sheds from damage. Crop insurance is generally two types: Crop hail insurance and federal crop insurance. Crop hail insurance insures damage to crops from fire and of course, hail (hence the name). Federal crop insurance is through the United States Department of Agriculture but administered by private insurers. It guarantees a yield (in case of crop damage) for the farmer that takes the insurance.

The remainder is called 'personalized insurance'. Life insurance, health insurance, homeowners insurance, car insurance are products most people are familiar with. The other type of insurance we have is business insurance. For example many contractors have insurance through us as well as many of the businesses along Main street.

The types of insurance have not changed a lot since coming to the agency in 1991, but the farm is less of the overall insurance because there are fewer farmers. When Robert Stoutenbourgh recalled his early days of insurance, he recounted many times of going out on horseback to visit the different farmers to help them with their insurance needs.

In 2000, Bill undertook a large renovation of the building that gets compliments even after four years. In an earlier life, the building was an office for Dr. Rhoades. There was also grocery store here at one time, and it was also a slaughter house. The vacant lot to the west is the site of the former Corner Cafe.

Karen Gossman came to work for the firm in 1970's and is still with the agency today.

Stoutenborough
Insurance
AGENCY, INC.
Est. 1880
125 WEST MAIN

Bill Ryan and Karen Gossman at Stoutenborough Insurance Agency in 2004.

1995 FINE THINGS 2004

Fine Things at 408 S. Wood Street, is a craft and scrapbook shop currently selling greeting cards, TY items such as Beanies and Buddies, kitchen towels, baby quilts and receiving blankets, and bibs. There are albums, stickers, paper , page protectors, and other items to help create a scrapbook of your dreams.

The building that houses LOCOMP/FINE THINGS is made of concrete blocks and was an old Mobil Service Station ran by Lester Kelley. It was for a time a repair shop and then was purchased by David and Joy Gardner along with the Maroa Car Wash next door. The Gardners later sold the Car Wash to John Martin of Kenney. Daughter Amy and husband Brian Lopez opened a computer business in the north portion of the building to build affordable computers and provide repair service for local people, and later began the internet service for the City of Maroa

In the Fall of 1995 Joy opened the south room of the building, after remodeling the front, as the craft shop and began with 20 consigners to become FINE THINGS. As the years went by the consigners were eliminated and other items were introduced, such as Beanie Babies from TY, the many scrapbook items and the metal pictures created by son, Wayne Gardner. Greeting cards have been a mainstay since opening as have the kitchen towels made by friend Nancy Duffer and the many baby blankets and hand quilted quilts that have been created by Joy herself. Her motto was "Made by JOY & Others 4 You. Daughter Ellen Thiebaud also created many crafts and made baby bibs over the years. Also we have carried wooden items, tupperware, Snowbuddies and balloons and other miscellaneous items to numerous to mention.. Many scrapbook classes have been held in the past few years in order to help others get started on their own creations of getting their pictures from boxes into pretty albums.

Busy time of year starts in June when I would begin attending craft shows several weekends each month and when there was not a craft show a friend and I would schedule a scrapbooking Saturday for ladies to come work on their pictures all day or sometimes we would schedule an all-nighter and we would wear our pajamas. These Saturdays were loads of fun and new friendships were made and of course there would be picture pages finished and also much eating!!!!!!!!! and talking!!!!!!!!!!!

The past year I have been slowing down getting ready for retirement after being in business for the nine years. I have enjoyed the time a lot and meeting people here and at the craft shows and having customers come looking for me each year remembering exactly what they had purchased from me last year.. Friendships were made and craft info always shared with other vendors that were trying to get started in the business..

Selling the sesquicentennial items has brought lots of people into Fine Things this year, and wanting us to mail cookbooks or other items to friends or relatives all over the country.

Fine Things had been a dream for me for a lot of years before it became a reality. I have enjoyed the time but now I look forward to retiring and doing other things. Have lots of scrapbooking to do for our many grandchildren from my many boxes of pictures and want to make quilts for each of them.

David and Joy Gardner are the parents of Ellen Thiebaud, Wayne Gardner and Amy Lopez. Grandchildren include Melissa, Gayle, Amber, Aaron, Renee, Doug, Megan, Jason, Jordan, Katie, Julia, Elizabeth, Heather, ages 20 to 9 and great-grandson, Isaiah, age 3 months..

CRAFTS
Fine Things
6 25 00

JARVIS AND ELLIS INSURANCE AGENCY

Since it was built in 1989, Dan Ellis' familiar building has been at 103 West Main, Maroa. The office officially opened there on July 1, 1989. Originally Bill (William) Jarvis (Dan's father-in-law) bought the property from the grocery store to the West. It was a parking lot at the time.

The insurance agency began in 1955 with Bill Jarvis working out of his home at 300 West Main street. Dan Ellis started his agency in 1983 working from his home, and it seemed like the right time to merge the offices and move downtown.

We offer insurance for families, farm and home. Farm insurance includes federal crop coverage, crop hail insurance, and farm property and farm liability coverage. Home insurance, personal liability, auto, life, and health insurance are the non-farm products that are also offered. Farm insurance is about 50% of the insurances we write. One unique venture we had a chance to work with was a client who raised ostriches's. He had a booth at Decatur Celebration where he sold 'Ostrich on a stick'.

There has been few changes within the 20+ years we have been offering insurance. We have one other employee in our insurance. The changes have mostly been in technology as the computers have both helped, and made the industry more challenging.

Allied Insurance
JARVIS & ELLIS

Dan Ellis and Glenda Church at Jarvis and Ellis Insurance Agency, 103 East Main Street.

WILLIAMS NURSERY

Early in the 1960's Mildred Williams decided to start vegetable plants on her back porch, for her own use, to save buying them. Her first growing season got a little out of hand, and Mildred gave the extra plants to her friends and family members. The word spread and people began asking for plants. Requests continued to increase and Mildred could not keep up with the demand. On a six-acre plot of ground just outside of Maroa city limits, the dream for a small business, "Williams Nursery" became a reality.

The business continued to grow and in 1974 it became a "family affair". Roger Williams, Mildred's youngest son, became her partner in the business. Maroa headquarters branched out, supplying a seasonal nursery on Illinois Route 121 in Mt. Zion. During the spring season, Williams Nursery had a nursery on Oakland Avenue in Decatur. The Decatur branch was closed and a new branch opened in Clinton, Illinois, in the late 1990's.

Williams Nursery moved into its fourth decade, involving three generations. Roger's son, Mark, manages the wholesale trade, which serves many florists in the surrounding area. He co-manages with his father in the growing of all seasonal plants that include Easter lilies and poinsettias. The business, now entering the fifth decade, has added aquatic plants and fish.

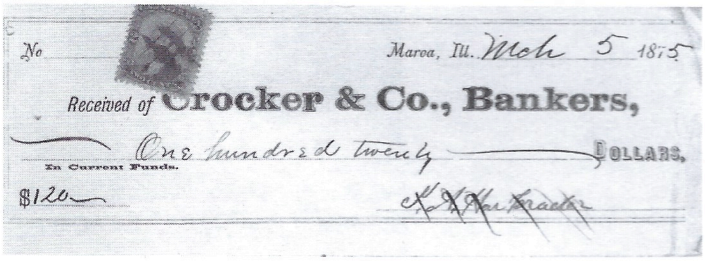
When you visit Williams Nursery you are sure to see matriarch Mildred, where she still spends many hours in her greenhouse.

Williams Greenhouse on the north edge of Maroa. In the inset are three generations with the green thumb, left to right: Mark, Mildred and Roger Williams.

BANKS

In 1867 John Crocker and his son, John H. Crocker, organized a private bank and carried on the business until 1873 in a corner of their grain and lumber office. In 1878 John Crocker, son of John H. Crocker, was admitted to the firm.

Major C. F. Emery founded the C. F. Emery & Company Bank in 1872 and conducted it until 1888 when it was consolidated with the Crocker & Co. bank. At this time George Conover, who had been associated with Mr. Emery, became a member of the firm and the bank moved to the site of the present bank.



No

Maroa, Ill. Mch 5 1875

Received of Crocker & Co., Bankers,

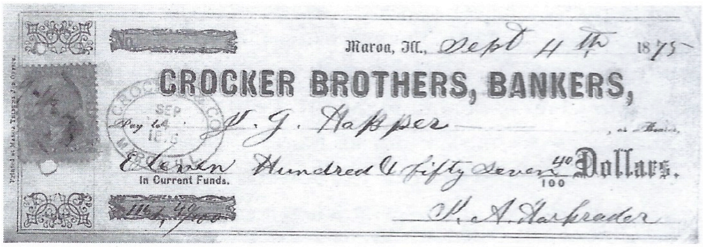
One hundred twenty DOLLARS,

In Current Funds.

$120

H A Harkrader

A bank note from the Crocker & Co Bankers from 1875.



No.

Maroa, Ill., Sept 4th 1875

CROCKER BROTHERS, BANKERS,

Pay to J. G. Happer, or Bearer,

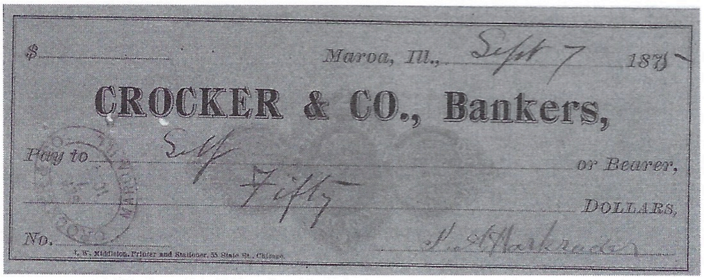
Eleven Hundred & fifty seven 40/100 Dollars.

In Current Funds.

1157.40

H. A. Harkrader

a bank note from Crocker Brothers Bank in 1875.



$

Maroa, Ill., Sept 7 1875

CROCKER & CO., Bankers,

Pay to Self or Bearer,

Fifty DOLLARS,

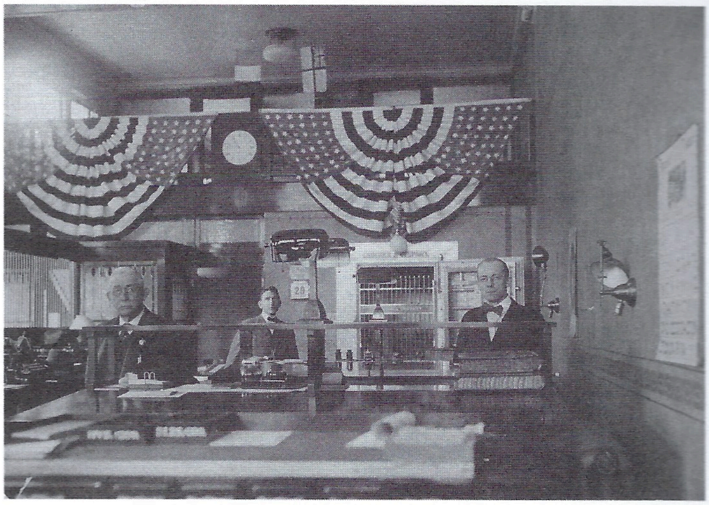
No.

H A Harkrader

J. W. Middleton, Printer and Stationer, 55 State St., Chicago.

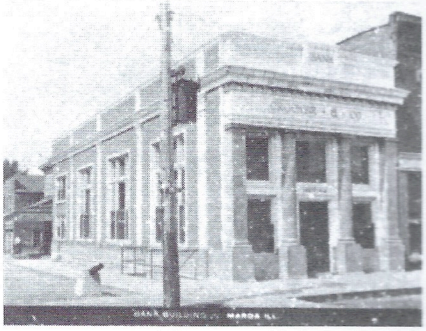
Another 1875 receipt of the Crocker bank.

A short time later Samuel A. Friedman opened a bank called The Bank of Maroa. This merged with Crocker & Co. in 1896 and was continued as a private bank by J. Crocker and George Conover until 1920, when it was incorporated under a state charter under the name Crocker & Co., Bankers, with J. Crocker, President; John H. Crocker (the fourth generation in Maroa, and in 1954 president of the Citizens National Bank in Decatur) Vice-President, and George Conover, Cashier. Norman Stoutenborough was associated with the bank over a period of thirty-one years.



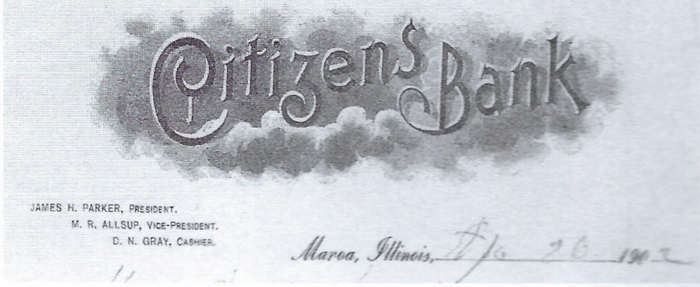
The inside of the Maroa bank shows Left to right: George Conover(Grandfather of William-Bill Stoutenborough), Earl Stoutenborough (Bill's Uncle), Norman Stoutenborough a cousin. This photo was taken after 1921.

The present bank building was erected in 1916 and was the home of Crocker & Co., Bankers, until they discontinued business in January, 1932.



Picture of bank as it was in late 1930's. Notice the Cannon in the picture, and the Crocker & Co that is on the facade of the bank.

The Citizens Bank was organized in 1897 by seven men who were the only stockholders. They were James H. Parker, John P. Parker, Lemuel Wikoff, John Longstreet, Miner Allsup, James Pulliam and Anthony Stoutenborough. The officers were James H. Parker, Pres., Miner R. Allsup, Vice-Pres., David N. Gray, Cashier, and Fred O. Wikoff, Assistant Cashier. In 1920 this bank became a National Bank. It closed in 1923.

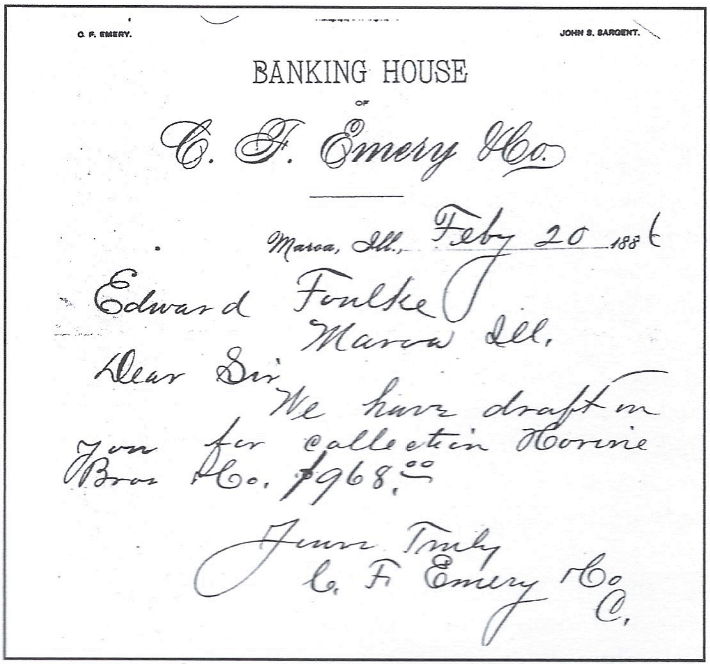


Citizens Bank

JAMES H. PARKER, PRESIDENT.
M. R. ALLSUP, VICE-PRESIDENT.
D. N. GRAY, CASHIER.

Maroa, Illinois, Feb 26 1902

Letterhead from the Citizens bank. Note the dateline of 1902.



C. F. EMERY. JOHN S. SARGENT.

BANKING HOUSE

OF

C. F. Emery & Co.

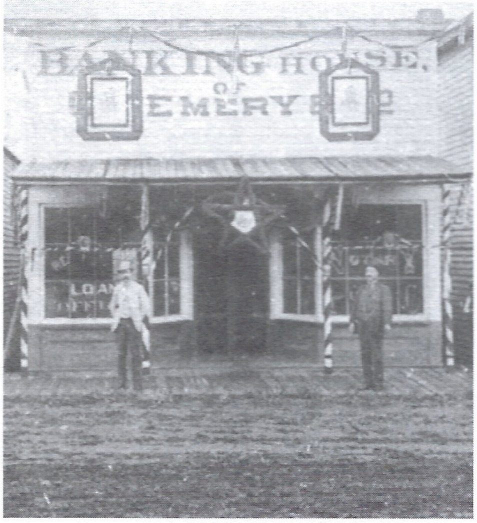
Maroa, Ill., Feby 20 188

Edward Foulke
Maroa Ill.

Dear Sir
We have draft on you for collection Horine Bros & Co. $968.00

Yours Truly
C. F. Emery & Co.

A receipt from one of the early "Banking House's" receipts

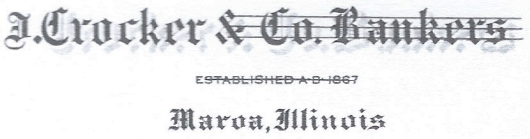


This is the Emery Bank building.

Maroa was without a bank from January, 1932 until July, 1951, when a group of local businessmen and interested citizens of Maroa met and discussed the possibility of forming a bank. On July 13, 1951, Maroa received a banking charter as Bank of Maroa. The officers were George Waller, President, Robert Stoutenborough, Vice-President, Roy Carlisle, Cashier, and Robert Mitchell, Assistant Cashier. The Directors were George Waller, Robert Stoutenborough, George A. Austin, William Milnes and Robert Bolen.

After receiving the banking charter as Bank of Maroa, they purchased the bank building located at 101 East Main Street that was built in 1916 by Crocker and Company. In 1972, the Board of Directors determined it was wise to purchase the two buildings adjacent to the bank building. One of the two buildings was torn down and a drive-up facility was built and placed in service in July, 1974. The other building is adjacent to the drive-up and is known as the Maroa Mini Mall.

Past presidents of the bank were George H. Waller and Robert Stoutenborough. On April 26, 1982 Robert R. Lienhart was elected Chairman of the Board and Lawrence E. Thicksten was elected as the bank's first active President/CEO.



J. Crocker & Co. Bankers

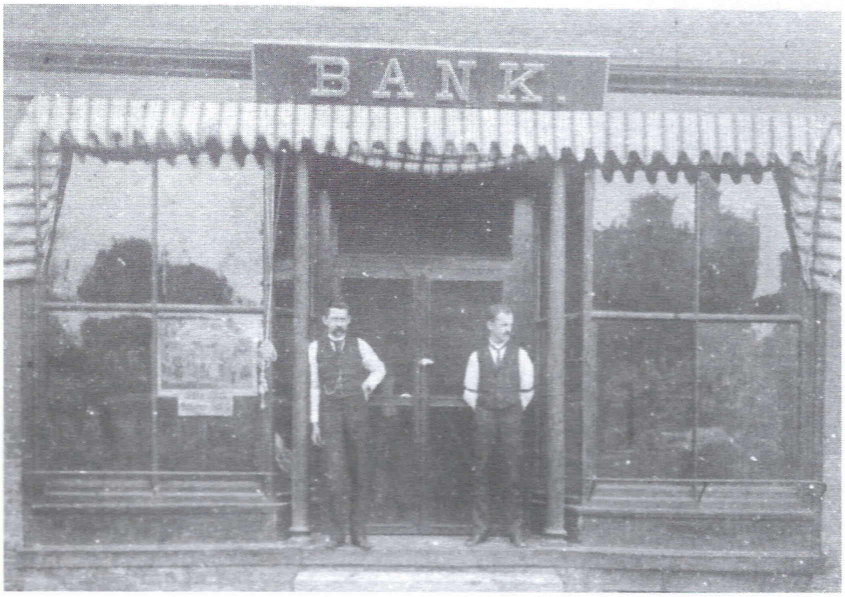
ESTABLISHED A D 1867

Maroa, Illinois

The stationary heading for the J. Crocker & Co. Bankers Established in 1867. Courtesy of Larry Nix.

An agreement was reached in late 1994 for Maroa Bancshares, Inc. to be acquired by Scott Bancshares, Inc. The acquisition was consummated on June 30, 1995.

In early 2000, a decision was made to open a branch in Forsyth,



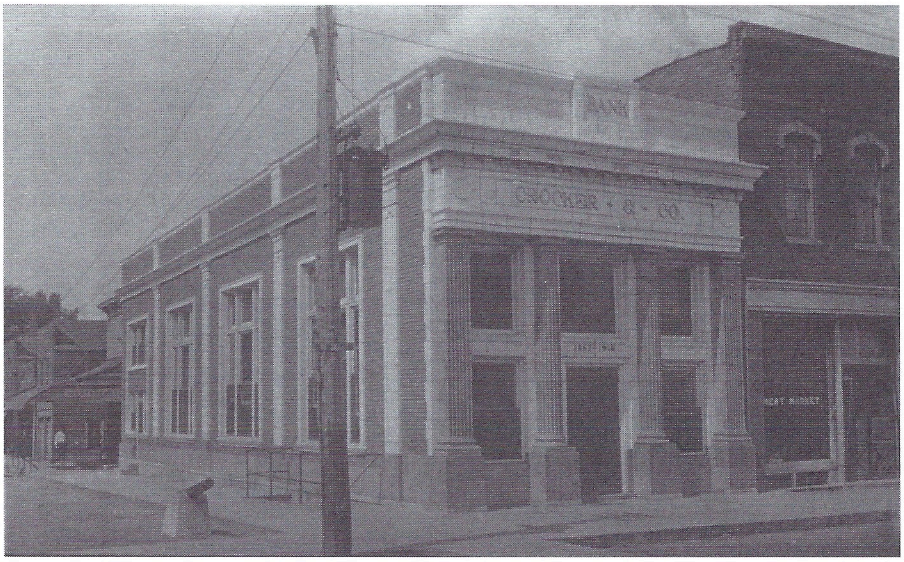
Early bank building with column and retractable awning

Illinois and the facility was in operation by the end of that year. This is the first branch the bank has had in its 53-year history.

On October 1, 2000, Lawrence Thicksten retired from active service after 33 years but remained as a member of the Board of Directors. Larry B. Otis was elected President/CEO after more than 20 years of service to the bank.

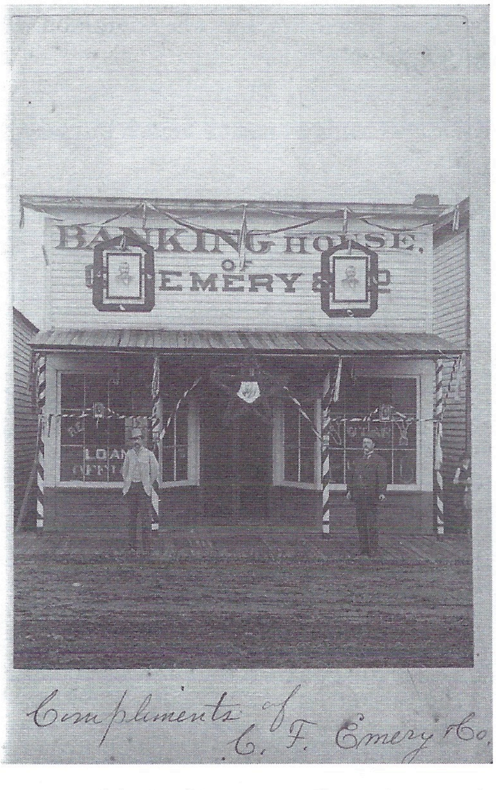
October 1, 2000 also saw a name change from Bank of Maroa to Maroa Forsyth Community Bank. This name change better reflects the bank's service area and its commitment to serving the communities of Maroa and Forsyth.

In February, 2004, Lawrence Thicksten was elected Chairman of the Board to replace Robert Lienhart who died in December, 2003. Other current members of the board are Sam Scott, Chairman of Scott Bancshares; Larry B. Otis; Tod Jeffers, Senior. Vice President of Scott State Bank; Elmer Hawkins, Partner in Brown Hawkins Basola & Mattingley law firm; and Laveme Malone, Executive Vice President., ASI.

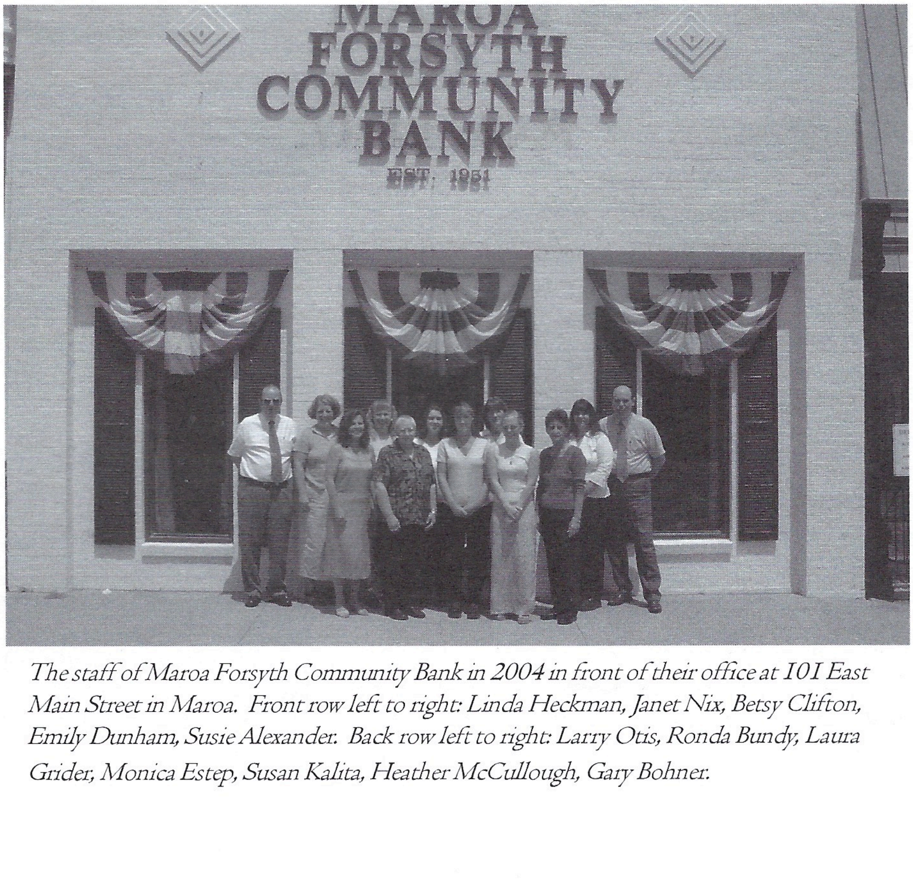


Bank building at north east corner of Main and Walnut. It was the Crocker & Company bank at the time. (photo courtesy of M&M Café at 119 West Main)

Charles F. Emery was born in New York in 1833. After traveling over the world for many years, he came to Clinton, Illinois and soon bought land in Austin Township. He served in the army during the Civil War and was mustered out with the rank of Major. He moved to Maroa in 1872 and engaged in banking, buying and selling grain and real estate. He married Lydia Ward. Major Emery died in 1911.



Picture of the Banking House of C. F. Emery & Co



The staff of Maroa Forsyth Community Bank in 2004 in front of their office at 101 East Main Street in Maroa. Front row left to right: Linda Heckman, Janet Nix, Betsy Clifton, Emily Dunham, Susie Alexander. Back row left to right: Larry Otis, Ronda Bundy, Laura Grider, Monica Estep, Susan Kalita, Heather McCullough, Gary Bohner.

SHARON STYLE BOUTIQUE

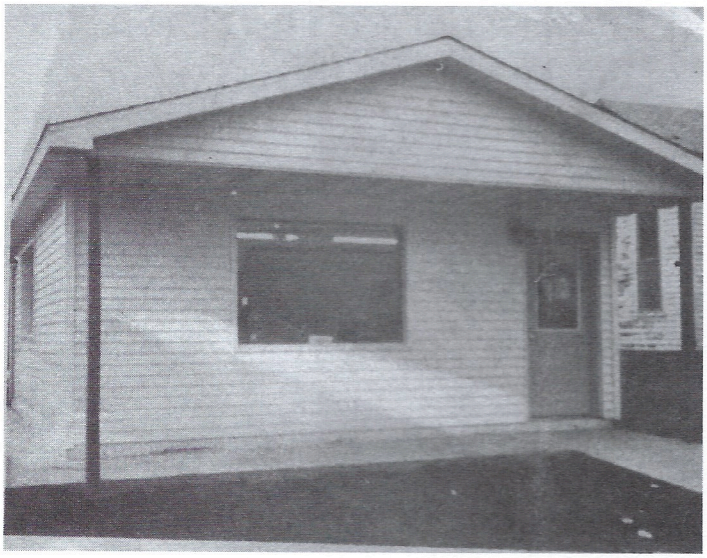
Sharon Brelsfoard's was built and dedicated December 22, 1976. She bought the lot from the Maroa Historical society. The current location on the south west corner of Main and Chestnut, had the building that used to house the City hall, which the Historical Society owned. Before Sharon took ownership of the land, the building was moved on lot west, next to the current post office, which is in the middle of the south side of Main street between Hickory and Chestnut.

When Sharon started, most of the business on Thursdays and Fridays was 'shampoo and set' for the ladies going out. Monday was typically reserved for perms, and Tuesday was tease and curly perm. Men received a lot of curly perms at that time. As the hair dryer became popular at home, the 'tease and curl' business decreased. When they first started, they also used to wear uniforms.

In 2004 shampoo and sets are still popular- taking up most of Friday. Highlights and color of hair now account for a large portion of the business as almost three fourths of the appointments have one or the other of those treatments. Another popular item is the nail tech. That is where ladies come in and have artificial nails attached to their nails, and coloring of the nails.

The business is relatively constant for both Sharon and Linda throughout the year. It does tend to be busier before Easter as many folks get ready for the Maroa Forsyth Alumni banquet which has been held on the Saturday before Easter for many years. Also right after Christmas and New Years, and after school starts tends to be slower.

Sharon's Style Boutique also has added new landscaping, and like many businesses, she puts out a potted planting. Sharon also decorates her wonderful picture window with the seasonal decorations.



Sharon's Style Boutique opened December 22, 1986 at 230 East Main. She bought the property from the Maroa Historical Society who owned the lot, and the building to the West. On that location there used to be a newspaper office.

SHARON'S
STYLE BOUTIQUE
OPEN

Sharon Style Boutique in 2004

Sharon's first customer is Pam Plummer of Heyworth.

Sheila Wikoff, also of Maroa, will be working part time in Sharon's shop. She is shown fixing Nancy Wikoff's hair.

EDWARDS FERTILIZER AND CHEMICAL COMPANY

In 1960 Bill Edwards started his fertilizer business in Maroa. This was the second operation, with the first being in Cisco since 1954. The Maroa business was located on the north edge of Maroa on North Wood Street (old Route 51). This was a full service dealer of liquid and dry chemicals. They also applied the product.

The family business included Bill's wife Bertha, his daughter Barbara and later his grandson Shawn.

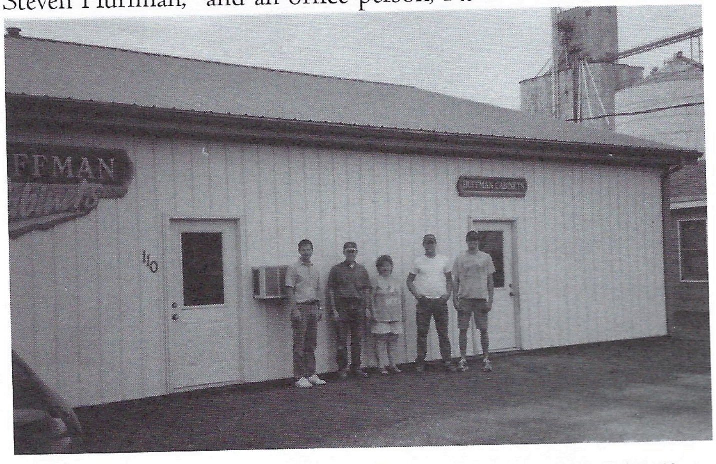
Bill showed a bit of whimsy when he had big happy faces painted on his tanks.

The family sold the business to Don Tibbs in 1988.

HUFFMAN CABINET COMPANY

In 1961, Herman Huffman began his cabinet shop in a small storefront on Main St.

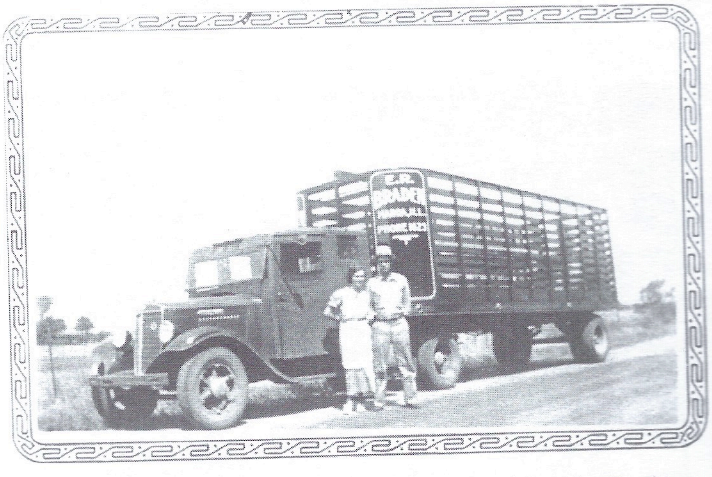
Herman's brother-in-law, John Jennings, was instrumental in introducing him to the cabinet making business. In 1974, the shop was moved to its present location at 110 E. Hickory (the former sight of a car dealership in the early 1900's). In December, 1991, a devastating fire destroyed the building, but the Huffman family immediately replaced it with the present facility. Jerry and Randy Huffman joined their father in the business, and since the death of Herman, have continued to produce quality cabinets and countertops for area homeowners and businesses. The shop employs two other cabinet makers/assistants, Zach Mayberry and Steven Huffman, and an office person, Roxie Waterhouse.



Huffman Cabinet Company left to right: Randy Huffman, Jerry Huffman, Roxie Waterhouse, Zach Mayberry, Steven Huffman. Their business is on north Hickory Street north of Main street.

E. R. BRADEN TRUCKING

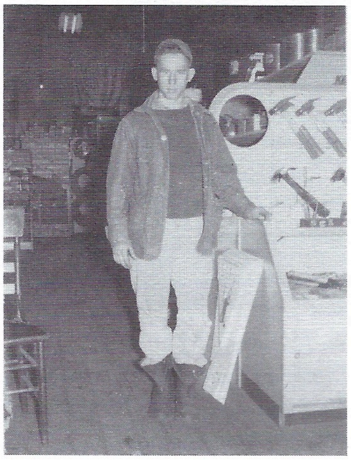
In the early 30's, Edwin Braden began his business with a small truck – delivered coal to customers in the Maroa area. He and his wife, Pearl, lived in Maroa 1 block east of our present firehouse. They moved to a small house across from the present Grade School (used to be the Junior High), and he built a pen with a high fence so he could bring in livestock and leave them until he had gathered all he planned to haul to market. A smaller truck would be used to go out to the farms in the vicinity and pick up the livestock they had to sell and put them in the pen, then go out and get more until he had a load to take to market. The trip was nearly always made to Chicago in a semi truck and trailer on a Sunday evening so the livestock could be at the Chicago Stock Yards for the Monday market He hauled everything from chickens to beef cattle. Edwin told the story of the time he was driving in Chicago and at a stop at an intersection, someone jumped up on the top of the truck and stole some chickens out of the truck. This was probably during the depression or soon after. Of course, it took several hours in those days to get to Chicago and back, so they would return quite late in the night. His wife, Pearl, would have a meal prepared for the driver and helper when they returned – usually around 11:00 p.m. The trucking business prospered and eventually Edwin was hauling all kinds of commodities besides livestock – lime, rock, grain, fertilizer, hay, etc. In the 50's, livestock was still a part of the farms in the area but it slowly began to disappear so the trucking business also changed. Then, the trucks began to haul grain from the Maroa Elevator to be delivered to Staley's or over to the Illinois River and eventually to ADM. In the 70's, Edwin sold his trucking business to his son, Robert and he has continued the business – now making much longer trips through the day, hauling much different commodities and on much better and safer roads than his father had before interstates.



In 1936, Edwin Braden started with his wife, Pearl, the Braden Trucking Company. His brother, Paul, started Braden & Son trucking. Edwin is pictured here with Pearl in front of their first truck.

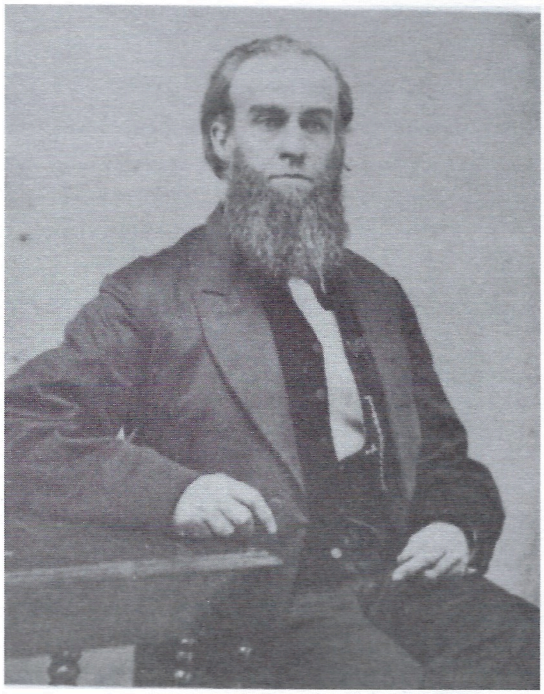
Jacob W. Manley was born near Rutledge, Tennessee, in 1843. He came to Morgan County, Illinois in 1864, married Elizabeth Liter in 1870 and came to Macon County in 1872. He settled four and three quarter's miles east of Maroa and remained there until his death in 1928. Mr. Manly and his first wife were the parents of eight children: Cordelia (Slider), Effie (Cade), Maude (Schultz), Oscar, A. R. (Florinada), Lewis and Mabel (Lancaster). After his wife's death in 1886, he married Mary Huffman and to them were born Nellie (Luckenbill) and Ruth (Parr). His third wife was Mary E.

Fran Thoms - 1970.



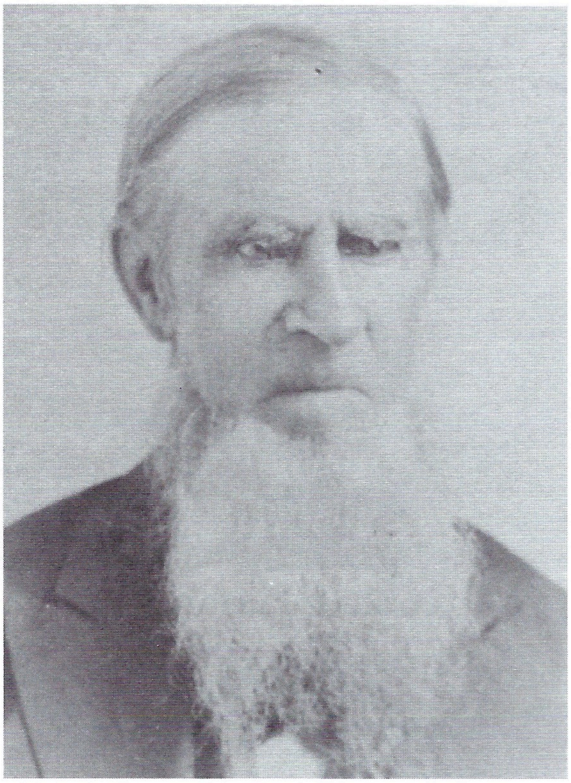
Fran Thoms in Larson Hardware, cir 1960.

Jim Leach during Centennial in 1954.



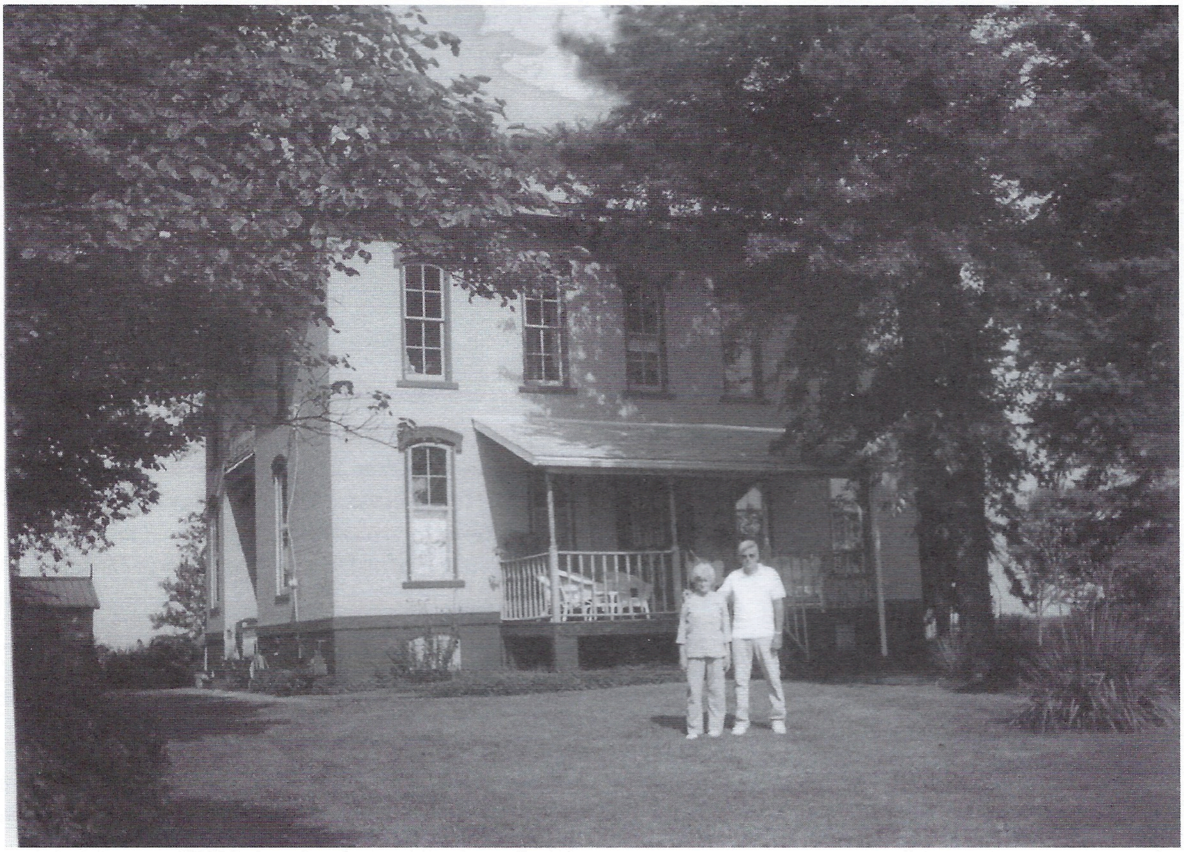
Dr John Wesley Thayer was born in Boston, Mass in 1824. He married Catherine Clough of Morgan County, Illinois. They came to Maroa in 1856. He had attended Medical College in Jacksonville, Illinois. After practicing for several years, he attended Rush Medical College and returned to Maroa after graduating. He died in 1874.

Special awards from the Centennial, Lola Jean Walters and Carol Ann Walters. Lola Jean is 3 and won second in "Best Dressed Pre-School Girl" and first in "Youngest Girl"



Joseph Simpson Clough (1800-1884) was born in Yorkshire, England. He married Anna Makin and they came to American in 1829, to Illinois in 1831, and to Macon County in 1856. Mr Clough was a cabinet maker and furniture dealer.

Gabriel Hutchinson was born in Clermont County, Ohio in 1840. When he came to this state, he located on a farm near Kenney. His wife was Mary Ann Baird. Their children were Nellie (Wikoff), Viva, and William Baird who married Lulu Moore. The family moved to Maroa in 1884 and Mr. Hutchinson died in 1907.



Baird - Rogers - Miles Home In 2004 Norma and Bruce Miles in front of their home at 15093 North Wood Street. They moved from their home at 231 North Wood Street to this home. They had lived in the same two homes that Eliza Jane Baird had lived in. This home has only been owned by three families. The Baird's sold the home to the Rogers family and the father sold it to his son, and then Bruce and Norma Miles bought the home in 1994. "The house had to be renovated before we could even move in. We cannot wait until we have the front porch looking like the original."

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MAROA FARMERS CO-OP ELEVATOR CO.

In 1939, the original businessmen and farmers that began the elevator were Bill Myers, Anthony Stoutenborough, Coy Agee, Sr., George Austin, Joe Longsdorff, and Ray Norris. The first manager was George Stoutenborough. Excerpts from meetings of the Board of Directors of the company are as follows:

Virgil Leach built the original elevator in 1939. Coy Jr. Agee dumped the first load of grain in the new facility.

November 23,1939, a charter was granted to Maroa Farmers Co-op Elevator Co. November 28,1939, formulation of by-laws and election of officers. In April 1945 Wayne Dymond, of Murphy, Nash, and Jones was the auditor for the company.

In June 1946 the Board voted to rent the west office building to Dr. Terrill at $15/month and he will stand the expense of remodeling. In June 1947 hired two elevator men, Otis and Robert Reed. In November 1947 discussions on complaints from neighbors regarding dust from cob and dust house. Joe Longsdorff and the Managers are to check on improving vents on dust house. In March 1948, Joe Longsdorff reported that the city will furnish pipe at cost and make connection free of charge to bring water from Main Street to the office. In November 1948 received license to store CCC grain. The February 1949 meeting showed manager Grady installed an oil stove in office to replace bad coal stove. One of our company directors, Mr. Coy Agee passed away Sunday morning, April 10th at 9:00 A.M. In the fall of 1949 we secured State and CCC warehouse licenses. Manager reported the elevators were completely electrified.

In May, 1949 purchased a dial and ticket printer to replace the present scale beam at the price of $941.00. In August 1949 the elevator erected two 31,000 bu Columbian steel storage bins at elevator #1. Cost $6,635 each. We also employed C.W. Wellman and purchased the Blackwood property to reside in.

In July 1951 Rented office building to Stoutenborough Insurance and Williams/Stevens, Lawyers. In July 1952 the Board of Directors at this time were Joe Longsdorff, Homer Mouser, Virgil Wikoff, A.J. Stoutenborough, Wallace St. John, Bud Query, and W. M. Myers.

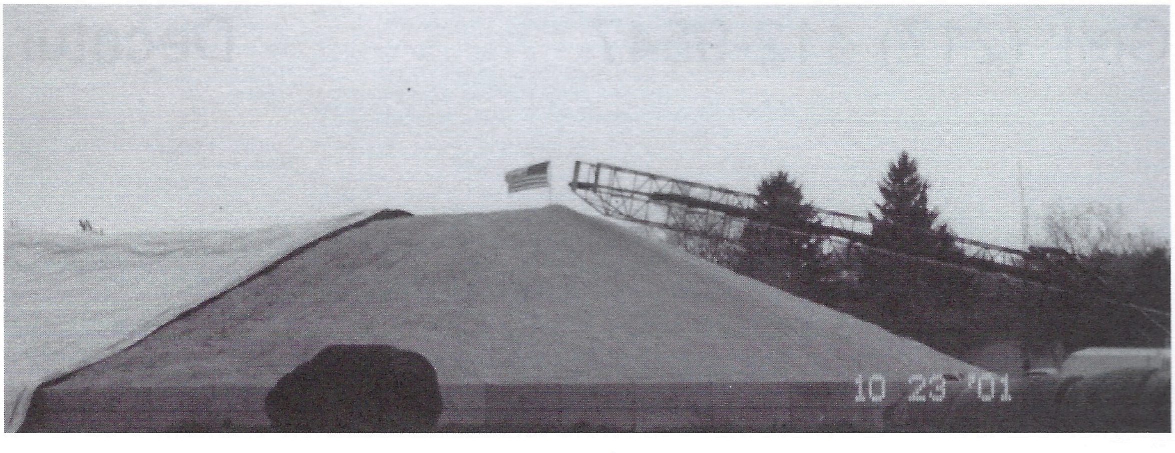
In October 1955 the elevator sold residence property because it was no longer needed. In December 1956 the elevator purchased 50 ft Fairbanks scale. In January 1957, a 16 ft. extension on north end of present office was built. In August 1957 they proceeded toward purchase of Butler storage bin 40'x 100'x14'.
In the summer 1958 Aeration was added to 2 steel bins. Then in February 1959, bought bulk feed bin and rebuild cob house.

In April 1961 the elevator board held a special meeting to appoint sec.treas.to fill vacancy caused by the death of A.J.Stoutenborough. They elected V.C. Westerman. In October 1962, Manager Meece reported on a good year and stated the elevator had handled 1,336,917 bushels of grain with much of the income due to handling and storage of government grain. The following spring 1963 Arid-Aire corn dryer was purchased from Day Dryer Co. of Peoria, IL. to be installed at the main elevator.

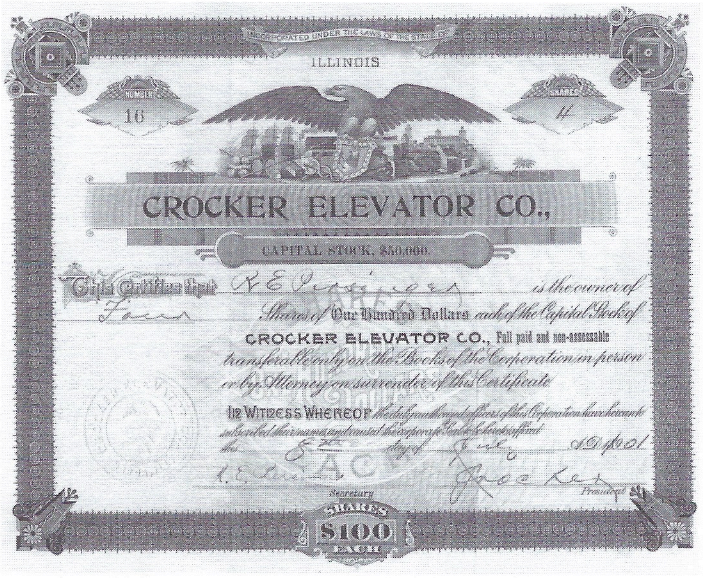
At the October 1964 Annual Meeting—25th year Manager Meece reported 1,275,000 bushels of grain handled by the company during the year. He reported the loss of a car of wheat, because of mercury treated wheat delivered by an unknown patron.
In May 1965 they approved construction agreement between Willis Const, Union Iron Works, Floyd Clause, and the Elevator. They also purchased of 2 steel bins and other major improvements to the #1 elevator.

Jim Meece

In April 1967, voted to look into a reorganization of the elevator. July 10,1967 Manager Meece reported on the fire that destroyed the east elevator and contents on July 3rd. On Aug 3,1967 a special meeting to decide what steps we should make to take in grain this fall. Mr Don Walters presented ideas and plans of using our two dryers and installing a leg to fill the two south tanks and Butler bin. In August 1967 on a 6 to 2 vote they built the new elevator on the east side versus the west side of tracks. At a subse-



2001 grain pile with flag



INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF

ILLINOIS

NUMBER 16

SHARES 4

CROCKER ELEVATOR CO.,

CAPITAL STOCK, $50,000.

This Certifies that [illegible] is the owner of Four Shares of One Hundred Dollars each of the Capital Stock of CROCKER ELEVATOR CO., Full paid and non-assessable transferable only on the Books of the Corporation in person or by Attorney on surrender of this Certificate

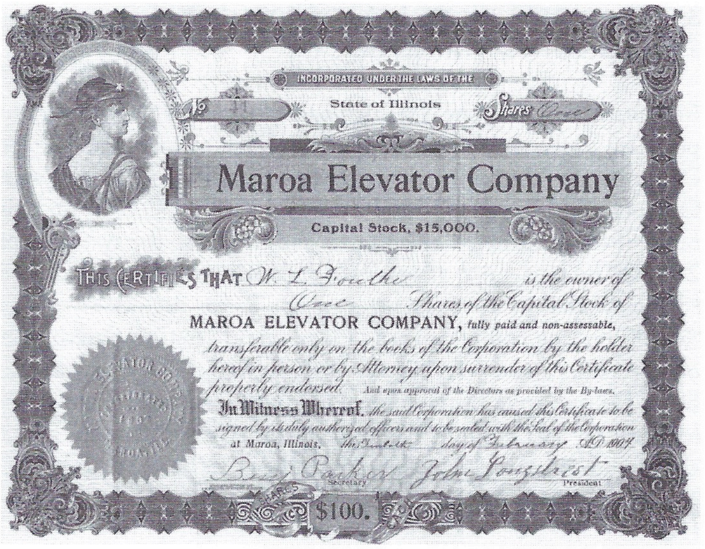
IN WITNESS WHEREOF the duly authorized officers of this Corporation have hereunto subscribed their names and caused the corporate Seal to be hereto affixed this 8th day of Feb AD 1901

Secretary

President

SHARES $100 EACH

A 1901 Stock certificate for four shares of Crocker Elevator Co.



INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE

State of Illinois

No 11

Shares One

Maroa Elevator Company

Capital Stock, $15,000.

THIS CERTIFIES THAT W. L. Foulke is the owner of One Shares of the Capital Stock of MAROA ELEVATOR COMPANY, fully paid and non-assessable, transferable only on the books of the Corporation by the holder hereof in person or by Attorney upon surrender of this Certificate properly endorsed. And upon approval of the Directors as provided by the By-laws.

In Witness Whereof, the said Corporation has caused this Certificate to be signed by its duly authorized officers and to be sealed with the Seal of the Corporation at Maroa, Illinois, the Twelfth day of February AD 1904

Benj Parker
Secretary

John Longhurst
President

SHARES $100.

Stock from the Elevator to Wm. Foulke in 1904.

quent meeting planned a stock campaign. In October 1967 they signed a contract with Jarvis Construction Co. to erect a 310,000 bu concrete elevator for $301,000. In March 1968 they had Mel Jarvis Construction Co.'s install the dryer.

At the November 1969 30th Annual Meeting, manager Meece reported profit was cut sharply because of high interest paid on loans for operating expenses. The problem resulted from inability to move grain due to the boxcar shortage.

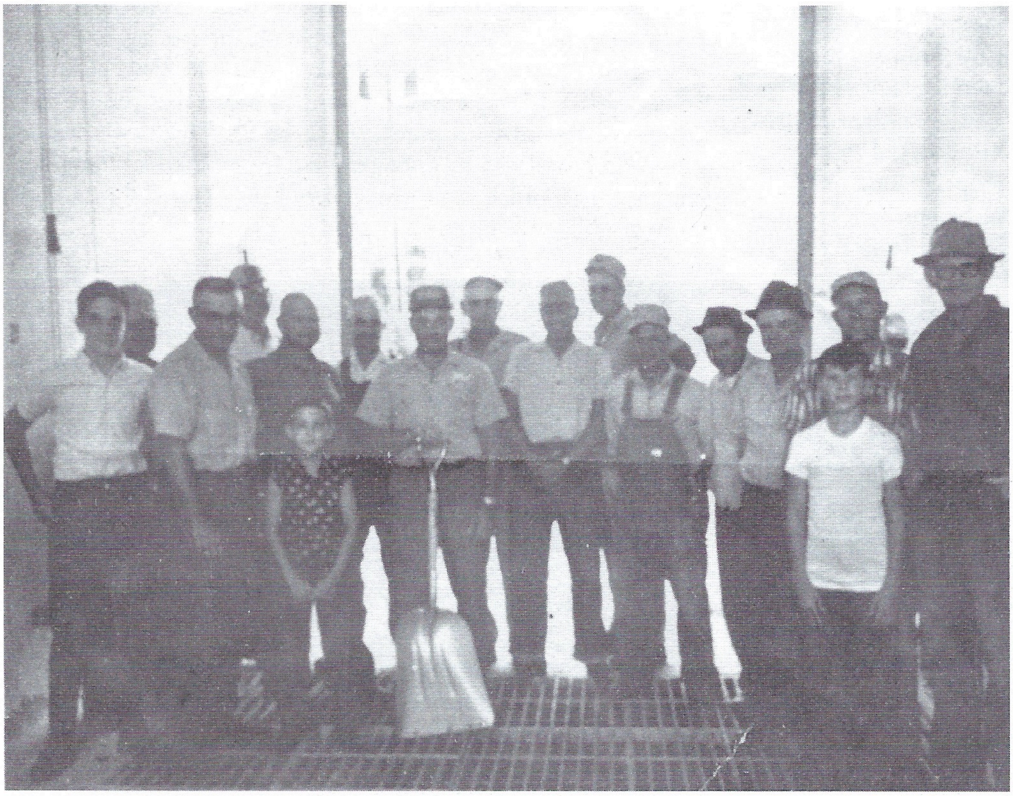
At the November 1971 32nd Annual Meeting Manager Meece reported on previous year's problems - 1970 corn blight - Corn was dried to 12% to insure condition during storage. A higher percentage FM discount resulted. High acreage yields 1971 crop and low market prices necessitated rental of all available bin and site storage.

Elevator Managers

Nov 1939 Dale Bunney
Apr 1945 Les Scott
May 1947 C. H. Grady
Aug 1949 Milton Lammie
Sep 1949 Leroy Wood
Sep 1951 Harry Bunnemann
Jan 1952 Karl Kirk
Feb 1952 James Meece, Jr.
June 1984 Phil Seaman
Aug 1996 Jay Whalen

In December 1972 Kurtz Ebbert with Farmland Industries submitted and discussed a plan for additional new grain storage. It was generally agreed that consideration should be given toward preparing to load 50 or 100 car trains. In March 1973 a special meeting was held to vote on building 200,000 b tank, plus needed equipment by Huss & Schlieper.

In July 1973 the elevator board voted to pay 7 cents patronage on 2,400,000 bu grain. 80% paid in paper 20% to be paid in cash. In December 1973 they offered a contract for 2nd 200,000 bu grain storage bin to Huss



Monday, July 1, 1968 just two days less than one year since the old elevator burned, the Maroa Farmers Coop elevator put their new grain facility into operation. The first corn was delivered by WO Johnson.

& Schlieper. $128,394.16. In August 1974 the board voted to buy a grain cleaner and grain probe.

In September 1975, the elevator board authorized the manager to purchase a new tandem axle grain truck for elevator use. At the December 1975 meeting they voted to enter into a contract with Grain Flo, Inc. for a Tec bolted bin at a cost of $179,331.00. This bin will be constructed adjacent to and north of the two present 200,000 bu bins. In October 1976 special meeting was conducted to decide what to do with surplus corn. It was decided to erect a 90,000 bu ring complete with tarpaulin and aeration system west of town at a cost of $10,000.00. In February 1977, they voted to buy a Deluxe dryer through Grain Flo, Inc. and erect a wet grain leg. In May 1977 Wamer Miller of Clinton demolished the north elevator for $6250.00 In June 1977 the elevator install a 30,000 gal LP tank and equipment to furnish fuel for both dryers if necessary and meet with city council and mayor to raise support for putting in LP tank.

In April 1978 Ordered a Tec grain tank from Grain Flo, Inc. for $223,000.00. In June 1980 the board voted to employ Charles Kiick to go ahead with dust control system. Cost is $67,000.00.

1980 drought - - - one of the worst years in Jim's past 30 years. In June 1984 they voted to purchase used truck-tractor from George H Dunn Inc. In 1989 Manager Meece decided to retire after 37 1/2 years of service to the town and farming community. Phil Seaman of Mt. Pulaski was hired to manage the elevator. Phil had been the assistant manager at Farmers Grain of Chestnut before coming to Maroa.

In the fall 1990 there was a Dryer fire. In February 1991, it was decided to purchase an oil dust suppression system.

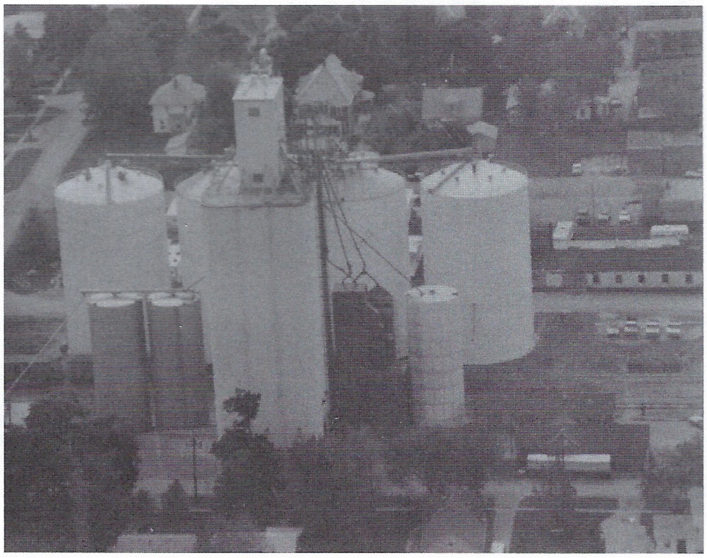
In 1992 the board switched our annual meeting format to a customer appreciation dinner in July, with the annual meeting in December. Also, they replaced the old red semi-tractor with a used 1987 Freightliner. The elevator purchased the railroad property from the City of Maroa . In May 1993 Phil talked to city officials about purchasing the old depot property for a new office and scales. Then in June 1993 they voted to purchase computer accounting software from Grossman and Assoc. from Savoy, IL.

Elevator Building in 1974 - Catwalk

TOPELIGHT
GRAIN CO-OPERATIVE

Jerry Lambert one of the drivers for the elevators

In April 1994 they purchased 1985 IH truck. Also approved a proposal to purchase a new dryer, upgrade the wet leg, and a new dry leg. In December 1994 they purchased a new Ford pickup. In January 1995 Manager Seaman notified board that the parcel of city property had been purchased to be used for new scale and office. In May 1995 they accepted bid from Sinkosky Builders to construct new office. In October 1995 they moved into new of-



Aerial View of Elevator

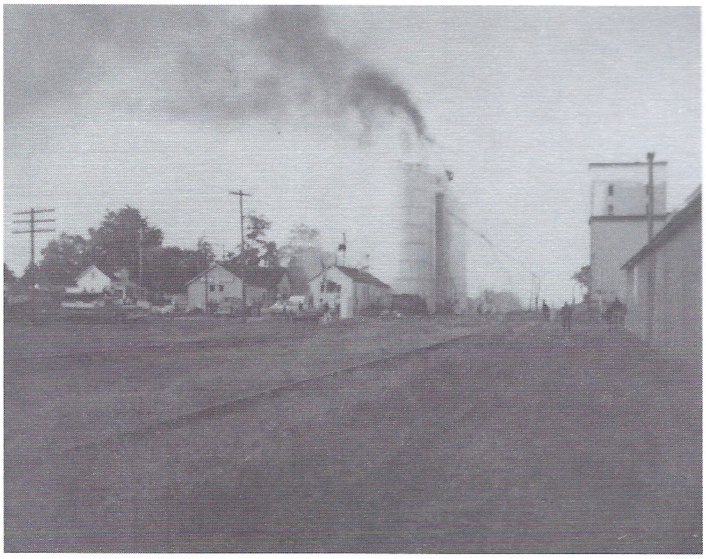
fice and in December 1995 held an open house for new office. In August Phil Seaman resigned as manager at Maroa to go back to Chestnut as Manager, as Don Adams retired. Jay Whalen was hired to manage Maroa. He came from Beason, where he was branch manager for East Lincoln Co-op.

In February 1997 they voted to build a 272,125 bu bin by Grain Flo, Inc. built overhead bin at bin site to load out quicker. In the summer of 1997 they looked into the feasibility of merger of Cisco Coop and Maroa Farmers Co-op. In August 1999, The John Ross Miller family sold the elevator approximately 6 acres next to the bin site. In December 1999 they voted to purchase Waller Grain. And in March 2000 they accepted a bid from Grain Flo, Inc to build a 273,000 bu bin, a 10,000 bushel leg with an above ground pit with concrete approaches and a 3000 bu overhead bin over the pit at the Waller location. In April 2000 they voted to purchase a 70 ft by 10 ft scale in existing spot for the Waller location.

In June 2000 Prairie I-Net (a wireless Internet Service Provider) will furnish antennas for internet service. The elevator also put up 400' x 110' bunker for extra storage, capacity 515,000 bushels.

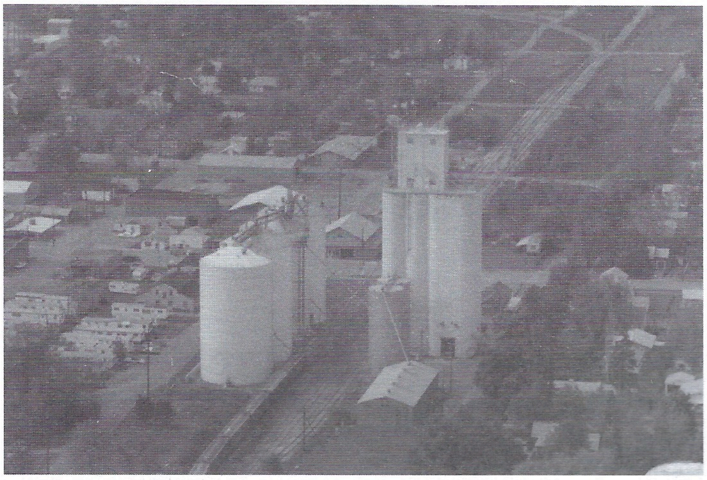
TOPFLIG
GRAIN CO-OPERATI
MAROA

Top Flight grain company in 2004. Standing left to right: Denny Hill, Jill Kuykendall, Sandy Davenport, Gary Wood, Aaron Hill. Kneeling l-r: Gary Liggett, Ronnie Miller, Charlie Bliss, Keith Willis.

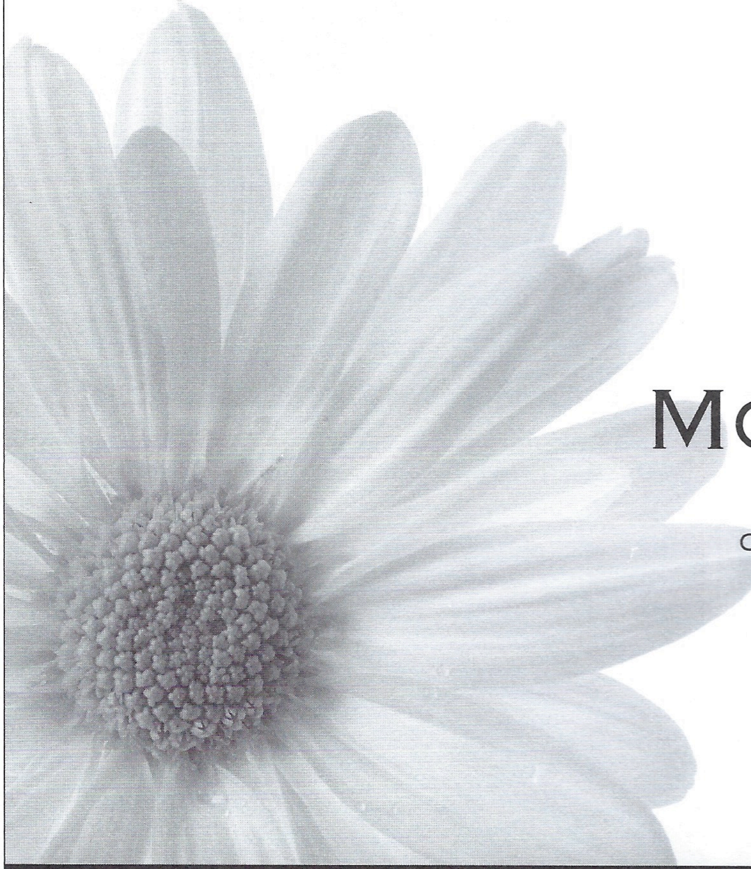


Elevator Fire

Jay Whalen (left) manager of the Maroa Co-op Grain Elevator from 1996 - 2002 Robert Austin is a retired elevator superintendant.



Aerial View of Elevator



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David & Karen Goebel Family

Happy Sesquicentennial Anniversary!

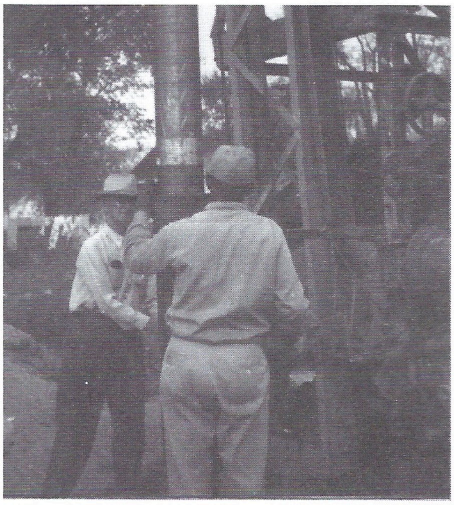
In December 2002, Manager Whalen accepted general manager's position in Morton, IL. The possibility of a merger with a neighboring elevator was discussed. The board met with Farmers Grain of Chestnut and Topflight Grain, Bement. It was decided to merge with Topflight Grain and it was brought to the stockholders for approval effective June 1,2003.

Employees at Maroa - - -Dennis Hill, Jill Kuykendall, Gary Wood, Gary Liggitt, Ronnie Miller, and Aaron Hill. Employees at Emery - - -Sandy Davenport and Charles Bliss Other farmers that have served as a Director for Maroa Farmers Co-op. J.C. Wamer, V.C. Westerman, Coy Jr Agee, C.G. Stoutenborough, John M. Zelhart, Jack Hill, Gene Hoffman, Jack Foulke, Bill Wikoff, Don Harris, Woodrow Agee, Ken Smith, Tom Margenthaler, Jim Agee, Carl Riley, Dan Marsh, Harold Johnson, Max Heinz, Ken Stemler, Sonny Lazell, John A. Zelhart, Don Westerman, Larry Clark, Robert D. Daggett, Jeff Heinz, Tom Riley, Dale Leggett, Verneil Leggett, Carol Query, Craig Hill, Wm. J. McGuire, Wayne Utterback, Jim Stoutenborough, David Zelhart, Brad McCool, Roger Dial.

Other Past and present employees of the Maroa Farmers Co-op are: Freeman Riley, Clint Hensley, Marlatt, Robert L. Austin, Jean Mitchell, Ross Wikoff, Evelyn Birge, Betty Marlow, Vestal Brooks, Dick Douglas, Marian Irvin, Jill Kuykendall, Jerry Lambert, Betty Marsh May, Chuck Meece, Glen Marxman, Mary Ellen Silver, Kim Young, Gary Wood, Ron Agee, Brent Ricke, Sherryl Young, Gary Liggitt, Sandy Davenport, Chad Lehn.
(Please excuse any omissions)

MASHBURN AND SONS WELL DRILLING

This third generation business, initially called G.C. Mashburn and Sons Well Drilling, was started by Grover Mashburn in the late 1930's. The business was established in Maroa, where it is still operating today.



Ralph with back to camera, and Grover on left

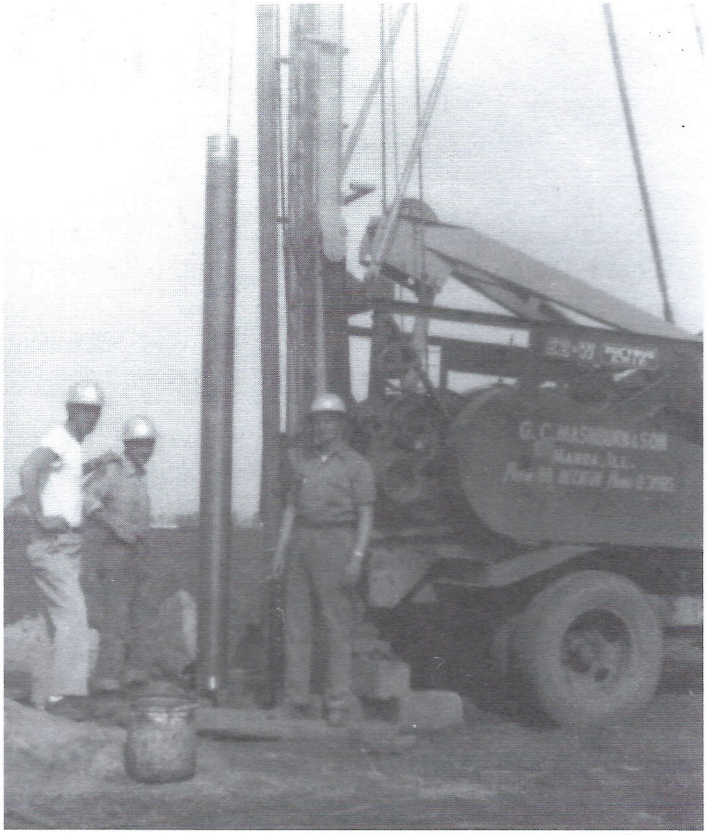
MASHBURN BROS.
WELL DRILLING CONTRS.
MAROA, ILL.

Butch, Ralph and Junior mashburn of Mashburn Bros Maroa, IL

In the early 1960's, the name was changed to Mashburn Brothers Well Drilling, owned by G.C. Mashburn, Jr. and his brother Ralph Mashburn. Butch Mashburn, Junior's son, began working for them in 1976.

Today, Mashburn Well Drilling is owned and operated by Butch Mashburn and services a 40 mile radius. His grandfather, Grover, started with a cable tool rig, which drove the well casing into the ground. In 1970, they obtained a rotary rig which accomplishes the same drilling only three times faster.

Mashburn Well Drillling drills tubular water wells ranging from 30 to 360 feet, installs and services pumps and water systems. The majority of drilling is for residential wells and some commercial wells.



Left Ralph, unknown, Junior Mashburn.

When I went to Maroa Grade, there was no junior high at that time; we spent 1st grade through 8th grade in the same building. So by the time we made it to the top floor of the grade school in 8th grade, we felt like we had really made it! Of course, the next year we learned lots of lessons in humiility when we became lowly freshmen at the high school, but for that one year in 8th grade, we were kings of the world!

~Sharon Woolum, Sesquicentennial
committee member, age 47

During the fall of 1982, when I was in high school, the band would practice on the football field at night. Darren Haenny and I would sneak through Jim Stoutenborough's cow pasture to the press box and throw the breakers to all the lights. It would instantly go pitch black, the instruments would all squeak to a halt like a deflating balloon, the girls would yell, then everyone would laugh. We did it more than once. After all these years, I had to tell....it was me!

~LaMance Thoms, age 38

My favorite thing about Maroa is the wonderful library they have!

~Denise Carter, Sesquicentennial
committee member

As you can imagine, when you're covering 150 years of history and having to meet deadlines, there were a few things that didn't make it to us in time to include in our first shipment to our press-which covered everything you read before the Celebration pages. Do they belong in our book? Absolutely! Thus the need for this last segment we are aptly naming....

TIDBITS

What I like most about Maroa is going to the liberry (library) and seeing Miss Cahter (Carter)!

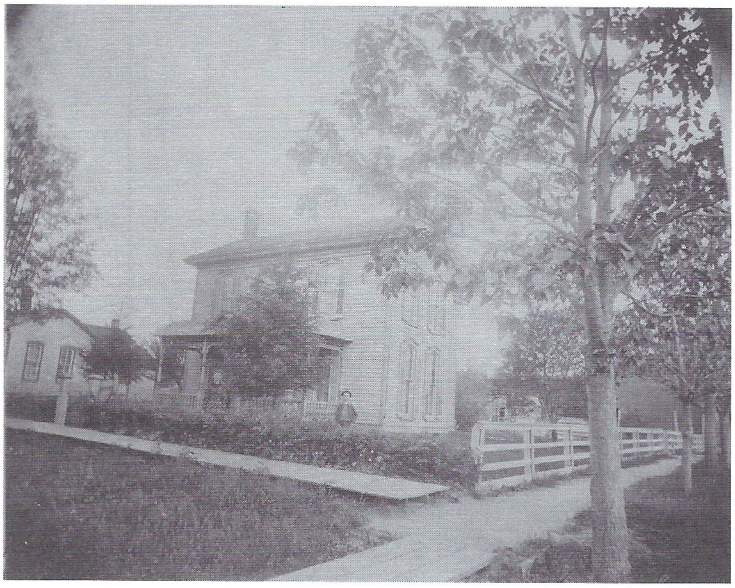
~Caden Eagler, age 3

What do I like about living in Maroa? I like how people help one another, friend or stranger. For instance, there are no "rent-a-centers" in Maroa. If you need a post hole digger, just ask around and someone will know someone who will loan you his simply on your word....

~Sharon Woolum, Sesquicentennial
committee member, age 47

What I like about living in Maroa is everybody waves at each other.

~Denise Carter, Sesquicentennial
committee member

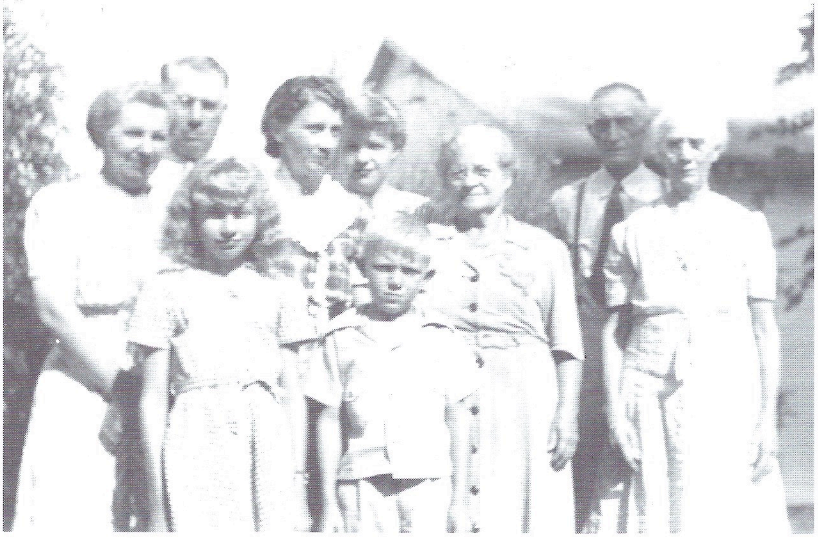


Picture of house in town. Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.

7 GENERATIONS IN MAROA

In memory and recognition of our family—past, present and future.

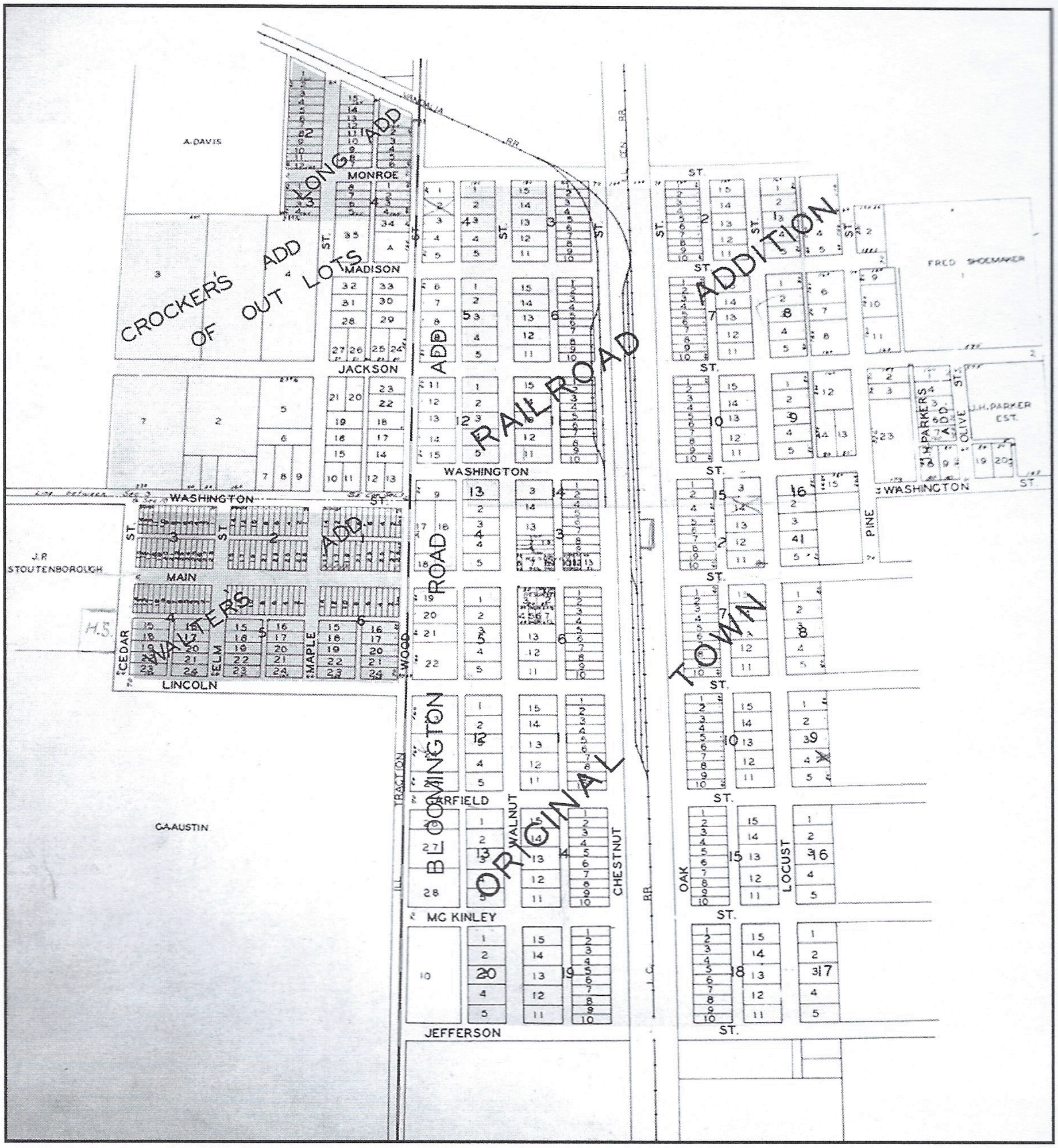
The BARNETT's and WILKEY's



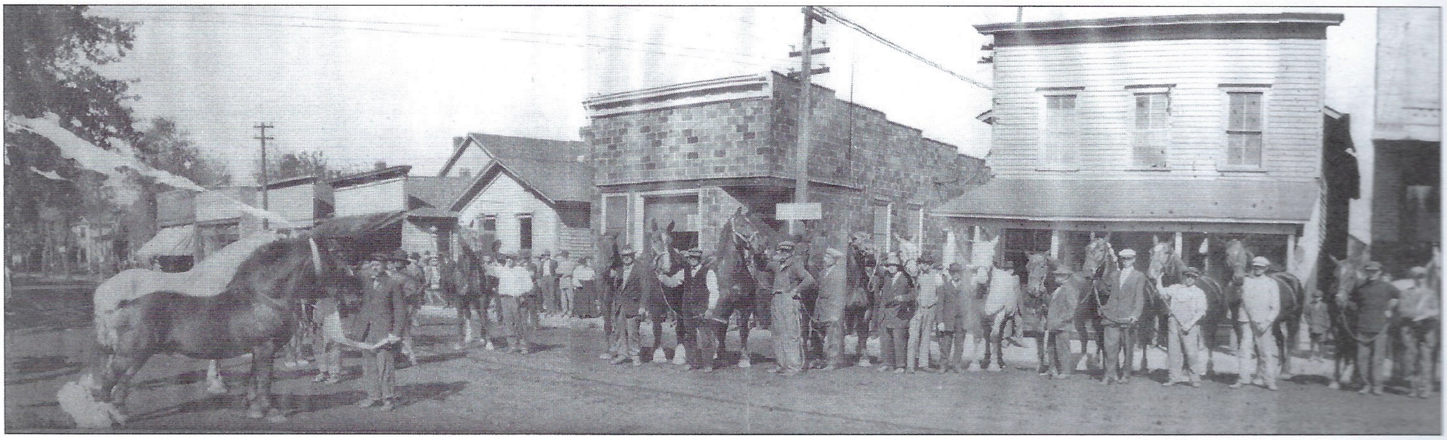
The Louie and Anna Rogers family

Picture of Moore lady

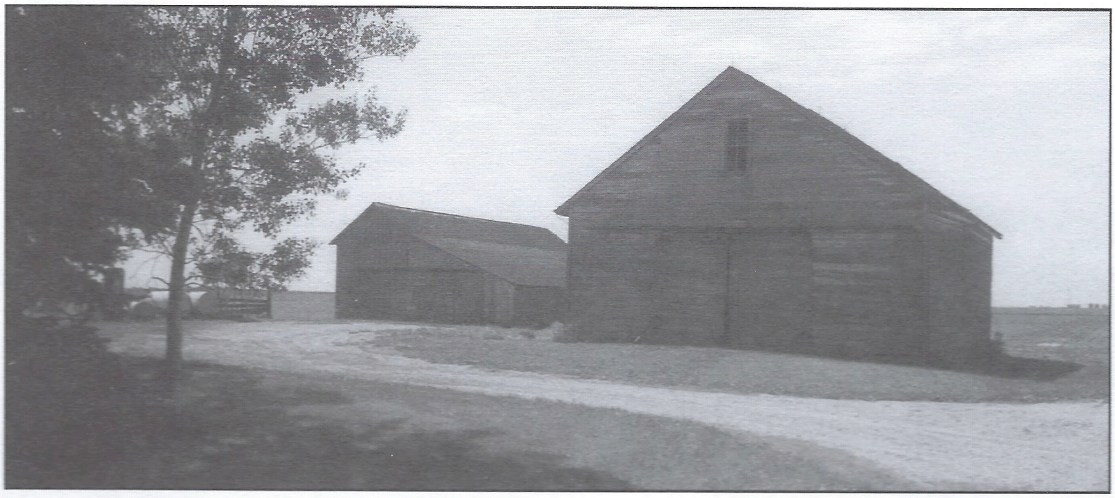
Memorial Day, 1959. The Grissoms in their band uniforms getting reaady to leave for Memorial Day parade in Maroa. The picture is taken in front of their house on the Grissom Farm. Back, left to right: Everett and Lela Grissom. Front: Viola, Velma and Letha.


A. DAVIS
LONG ADD
MONROE
CROCKER'S ADD OF OUT LOTS
MADISON
JACKSON
RAILROAD ADDITION
FRED SHOEMAKER
J.H. PARKERS ADD.
J.H. PARKER EST.
OLIVE
WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON ST.
J.R. STOUTENBOROUGH
MAIN
H.S.
WALTERS ADD
CEDAR
ELM
MAPLE
WOOD
LINCOLN
BLOOMINGTON ROAD ADD
ORIGINAL TOWN
PINE
TRACTION
G.A. AUSTIN
GARFIELD
WALNUT
CHESTNUT
OAK
LOCUST
MC KINLEY
JEFFERSON
ST.
I.C. RR

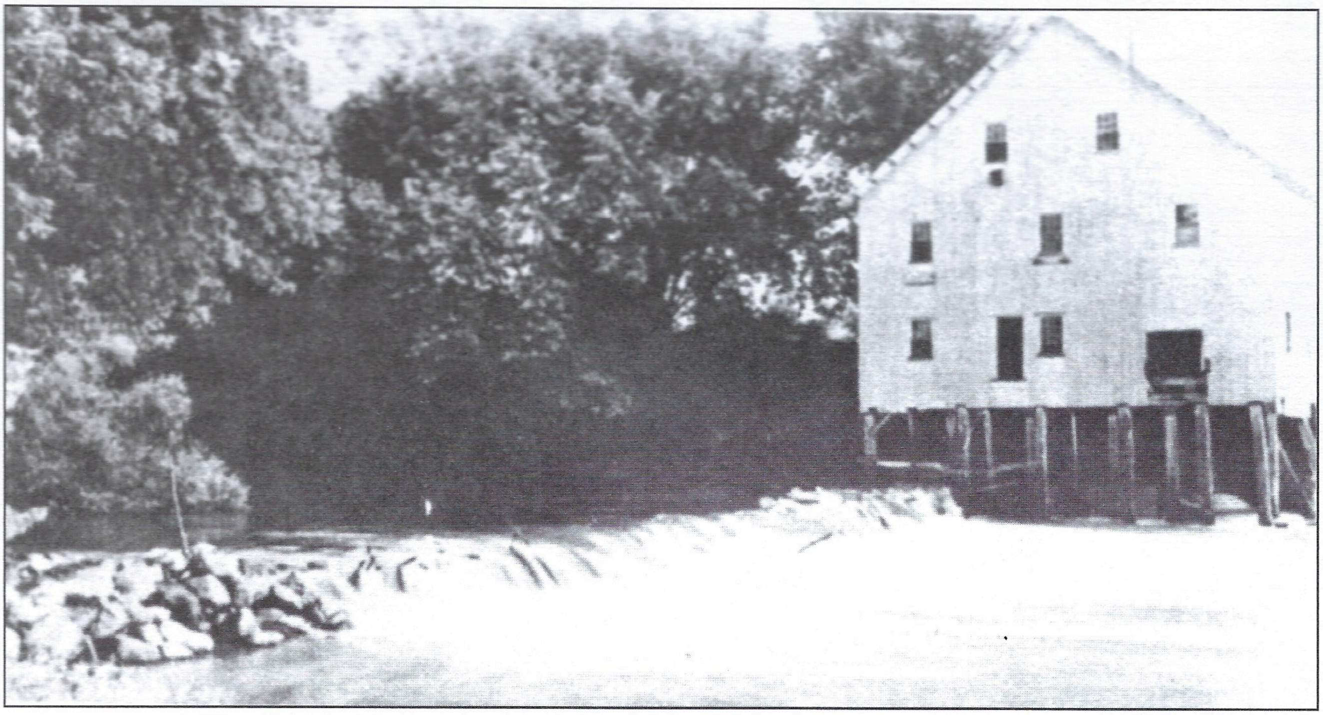
Plat map above showing the layout of the Crocker addtion out lots, year unknown



Unique panaoramic photo of folks on Main Street showing off their horses.



Picture of outbuildings on the Withers property on corner of Brush College and Lake Fork.
Not pictured is the house to the left, childhood home of Edwin "Doc" Withers



The "Old Mill" was erected on the banks of Salt Creek at Pastime park, six miles southeast of Clinton in 1838.
It was first designed as a sawmill but later a gristmill was added. It was torn down in 1920.

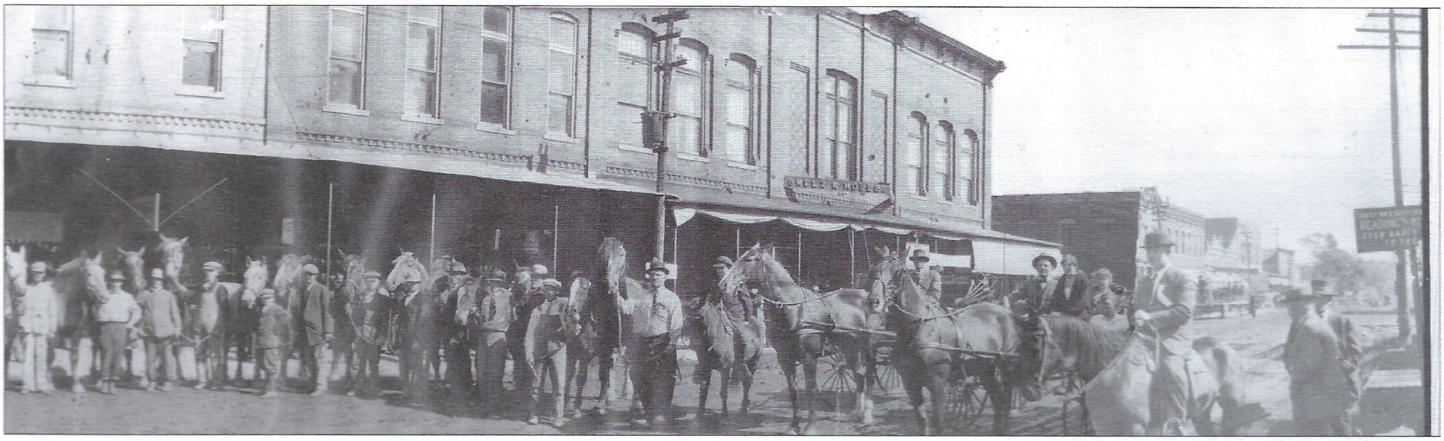
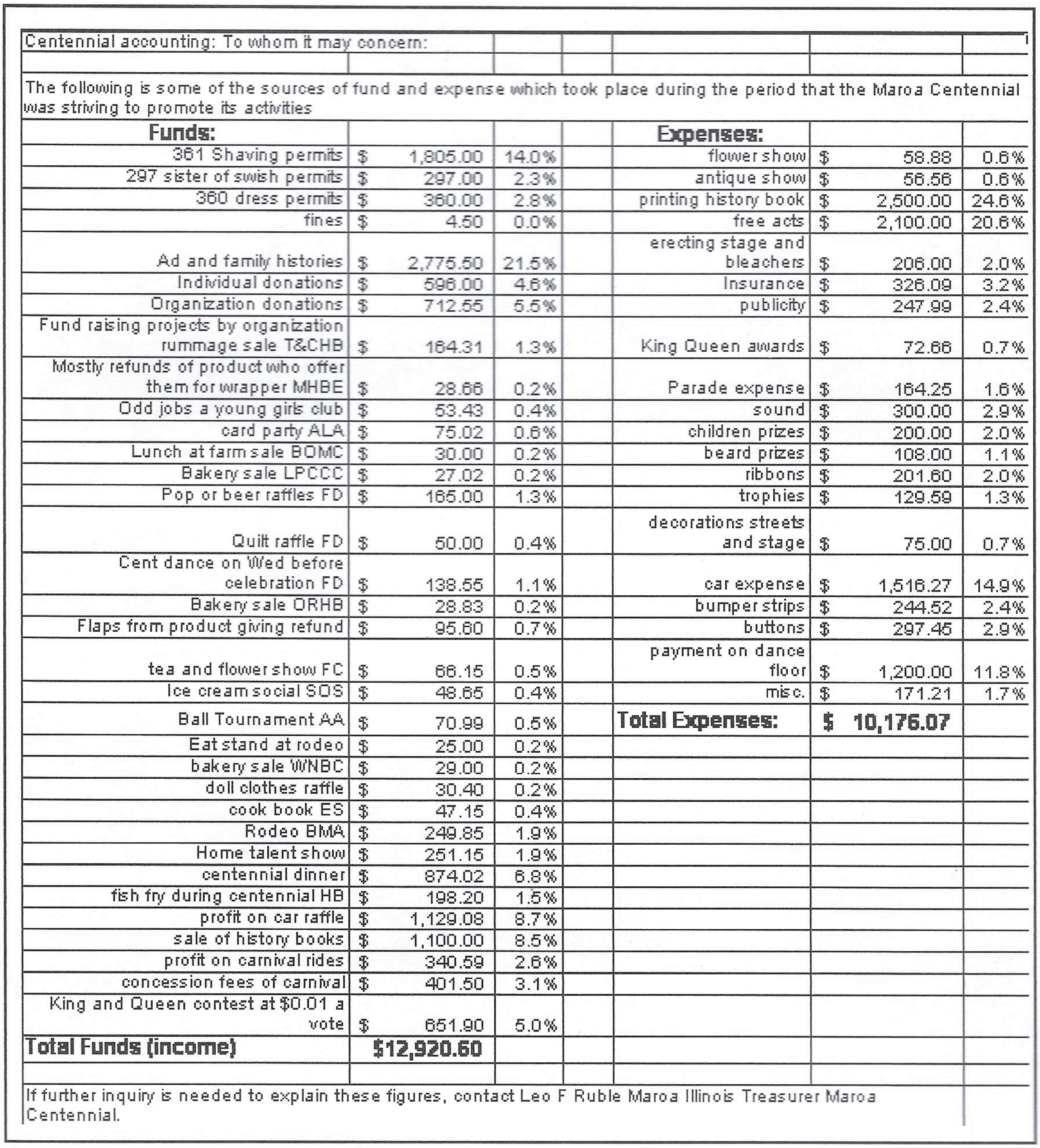


Photo courtesy of the M & M Cafe

"WELCOME"
TO THE CITY OF
MAROA
A SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMUNITY
1854-2004

County workers putting up the sesquicentennial sign at town entrance on Washington Street

Four generations of the Jim and Mary Leach family recently gathered for this photo. From left: Jim Leach, John Leach, Johnny Leach holding his daughter Nikki and Mary Leach.



Centennial accounting: To whom it may concern:

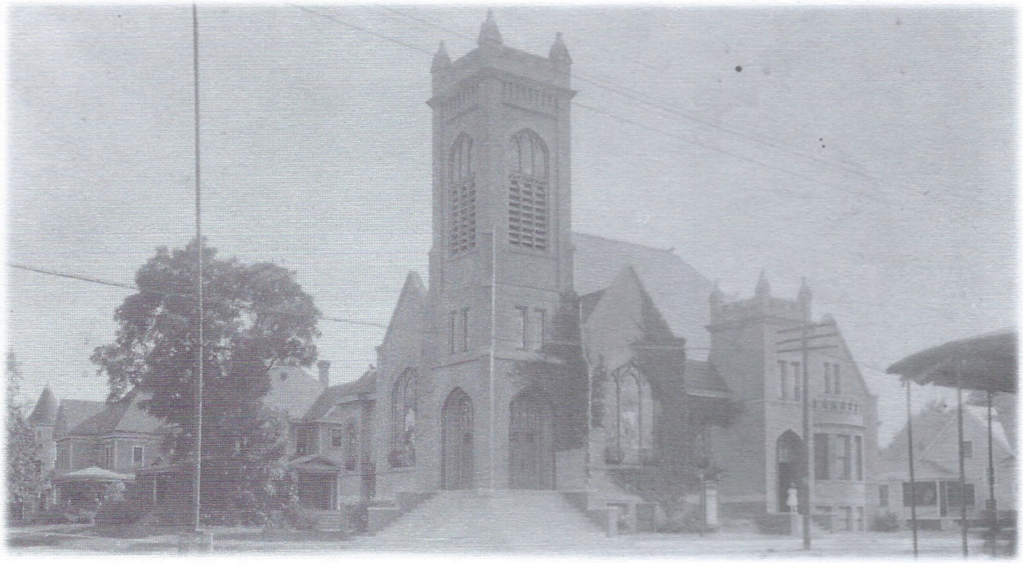
The following is some of the sources of fund and expense which took place during the period that the Maroa Centennial was striving to promote its activities

Funds:				**Expenses:**		
361 Shaving permits	$ 1,805.00	14.0%		flower show	$ 58.88	0.6%
297 sister of swish permits	$ 297.00	2.3%		antique show	$ 56.56	0.6%
360 dress permits	$ 360.00	2.8%		printing history book	$ 2,500.00	24.6%
fines	$ 4.50	0.0%		free acts	$ 2,100.00	20.6%
Ad and family histories	$ 2,775.50	21.5%		erecting stage and bleachers	$ 206.00	2.0%
Individual donations	$ 596.00	4.6%		Insurance	$ 326.09	3.2%
Organization donations	$ 712.55	5.5%		publicity	$ 247.99	2.4%
Fund raising projects by organization rummage sale T&CHB	$ 164.31	1.3%		King Queen awards	$ 72.66	0.7%
Mostly refunds of product who offer them for wrapper MHBE	$ 28.66	0.2%		Parade expense	$ 164.25	1.6%
Odd jobs a young girls club	$ 53.43	0.4%		sound	$ 300.00	2.9%
card party ALA	$ 75.02	0.6%		children prizes	$ 200.00	2.0%
Lunch at farm sale BOMC	$ 30.00	0.2%		beard prizes	$ 108.00	1.1%
Bakery sale LPCCC	$ 27.02	0.2%		ribbons	$ 201.60	2.0%
Pop or beer raffles FD	$ 165.00	1.3%		trophies	$ 129.59	1.3%
Quilt raffle FD	$ 50.00	0.4%		decorations streets and stage	$ 75.00	0.7%
Cent dance on Wed before celebration FD	$ 138.55	1.1%		car expense	$ 1,516.27	14.9%
Bakery sale ORHB	$ 28.83	0.2%		bumper strips	$ 244.52	2.4%
Flaps from product giving refund	$ 95.60	0.7%		buttons	$ 297.45	2.9%
tea and flower show FC	$ 66.15	0.5%		payment on dance floor	$ 1,200.00	11.8%
Ice cream social SOS	$ 48.65	0.4%		misc.	$ 171.21	1.7%
Ball Tournament AA	$ 70.99	0.5%		**Total Expenses:**	**$ 10,176.07**	
Eat stand at rodeo	$ 25.00	0.2%				
bakery sale WNBC	$ 29.00	0.2%				
doll clothes raffle	$ 30.40	0.2%				
cook book ES	$ 47.15	0.4%				
Rodeo BMA	$ 249.85	1.9%				
Home talent show	$ 251.15	1.9%				
centennial dinner	$ 874.02	6.8%				
fish fry during centennial HB	$ 198.20	1.5%				
profit on car raffle	$ 1,129.08	8.7%				
sale of history books	$ 1,100.00	8.5%				
profit on carnival rides	$ 340.59	2.6%				
concession fees of carnival	$ 401.50	3.1%				
King and Queen contest at $0.01 a vote	$ 651.90	5.0%				
Total Funds (income)	**$12,920.60**					

If further inquiry is needed to explain these figures, contact Leo F Ruble Maroa Illinois Treasurer Maroa Centennial.

Interesting look at final accounting of 1954 Maroa Centennial

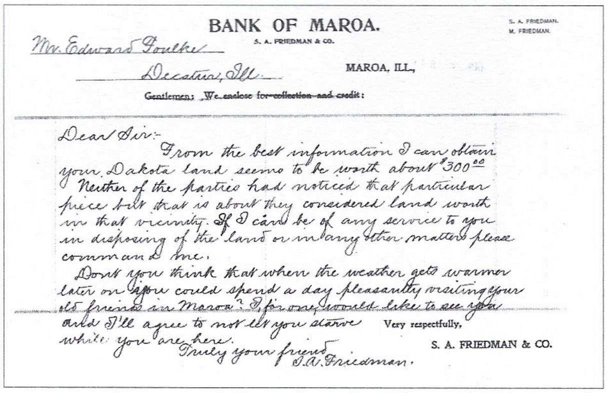
Adrienne Stoutenborough won first in "Girl's Oldest Costume" (High School) and first in "Most Beautiful Old Wedding Dress" in the Centennial fashion show. The dress belonged to her great-grandmother, Louisa Simpson Watson, who was married November 1, 1871.



Presbyterian Church on the southwest corner ofMain and Walnut Street, cir 1910. Note the Ivy on the walls, and the girl in the north door.

Photo courtesy of Larry Nix.

Anthony Stoutenborough
and Sarah (Parker)
circa 1843



BANK OF MAROA.

S. A. FRIEDMAN & CO.

S. A. FRIEDMAN.
M. FRIEDMAN.

Mr. Edward Foulke
Decatur, Ill.

MAROA, ILL.,

Gentlemen: ~~We enclose for collection and credit~~:

Dear Sir:-

From the best information I can obtain your Dakota land seems to be worth about $300.00

Neither of the parties had noticed that particular piece but that is about they considered land worth in that vicinity. If I can be of any service to you in disposing of the land or in any other matters please command me.

Don't you think that when the weather gets warmer later on you could spend a day pleasantly visiting your old friends in Maroa? I, for one, would like to see you and I'll agree to not let you starve while you are here.

Very respectfully,

S. A. FRIEDMAN & CO.

Truly your friend
S.A. Friedman.

"Dear Sir,
From the best information I can obtain
Your Dakota land seems to be worth about $300.00.
Neither of the parties had noticed that particular
piece but that is about they considered land worth
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In disposing of the land or in any other matters please
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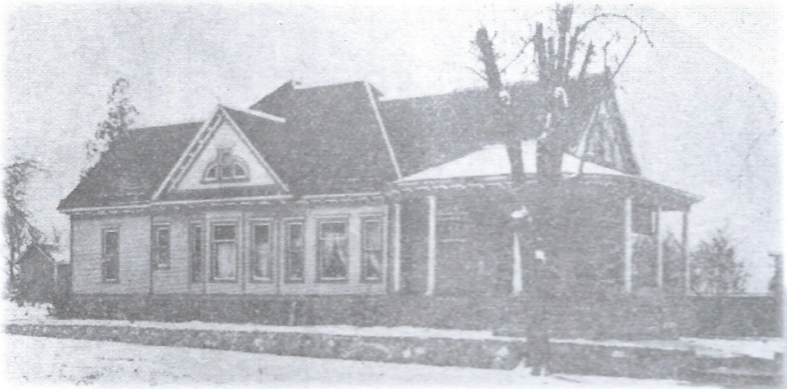
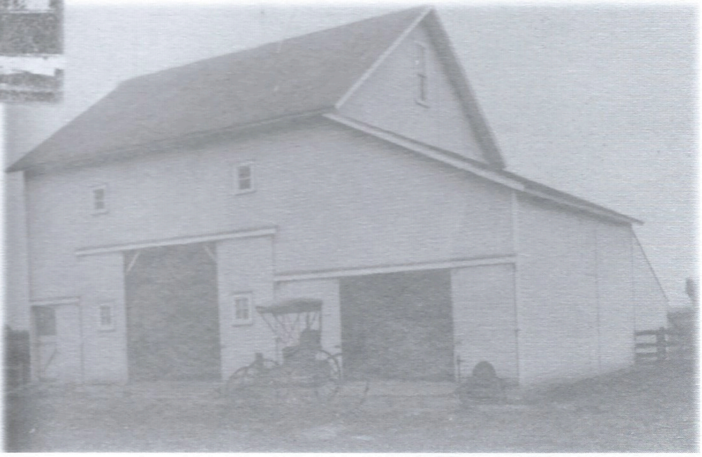


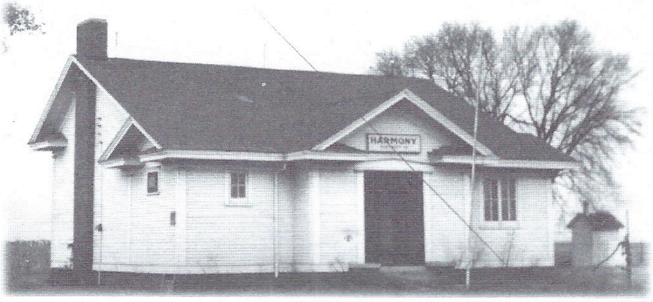
Residence of G. L. Miller 300 South Walnut Street.
Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.



Rueberta Ball Kempshall
Cir 1910

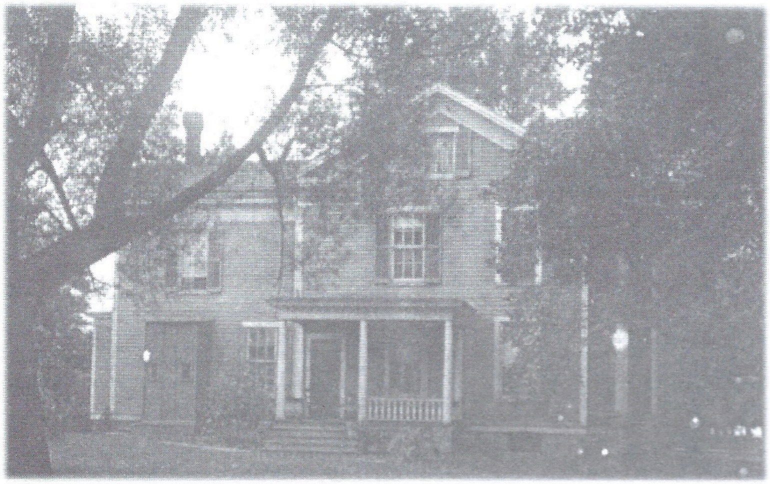
Stoutenborough Barn cir 1900's

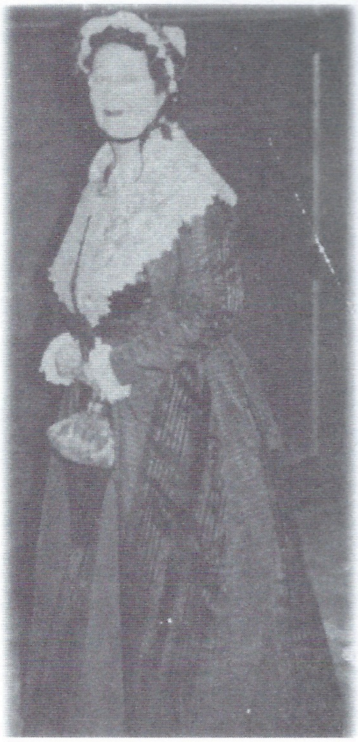
Mr and Mrs Wayne Kempshall of Westerville, Ohio, formerly of Decatur, Illinois celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in 1998. They are the parents of Ann Mayberry of Mount Zion. Wayne was born in Maroa, the son of Lee and Edna Kempshall.



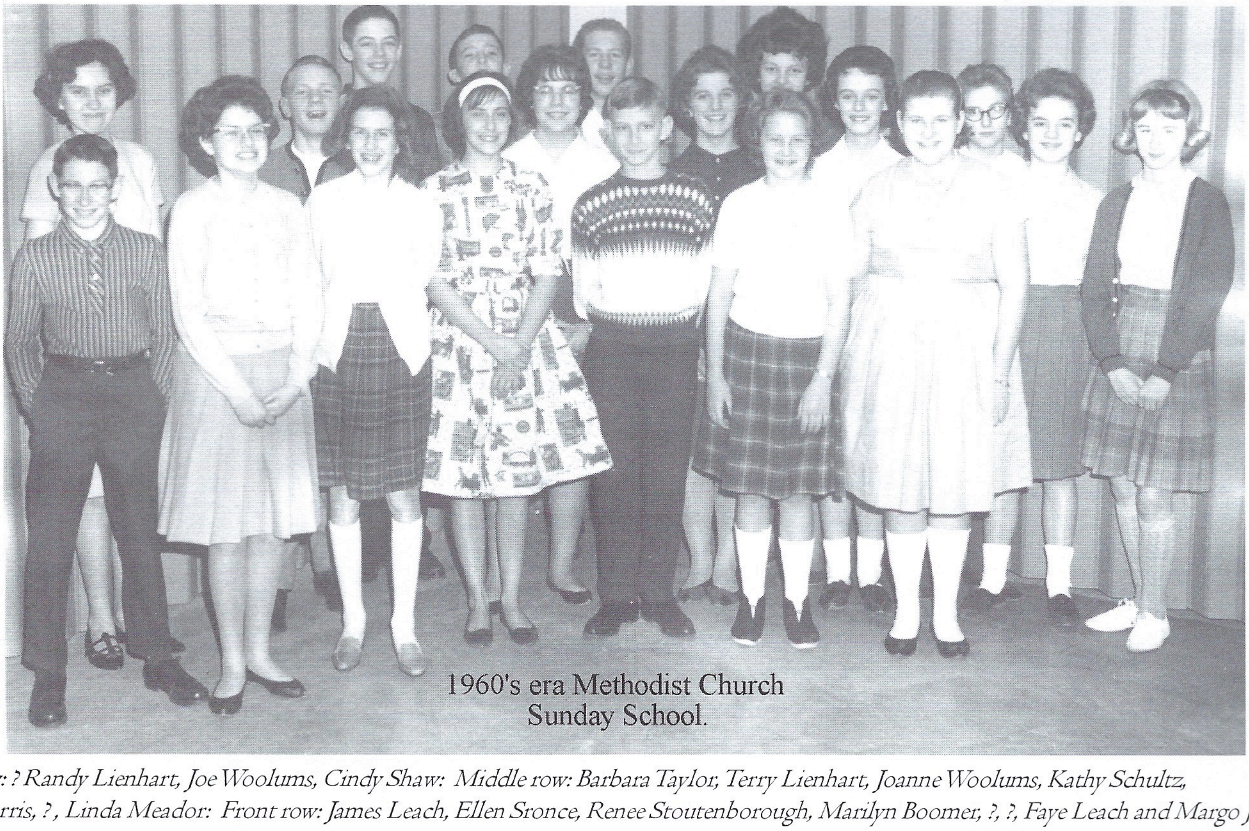
Harmony School in 1940

The old Crocker house at the corner of Lincoln and Oak street. Photo courtesy of M&M Café



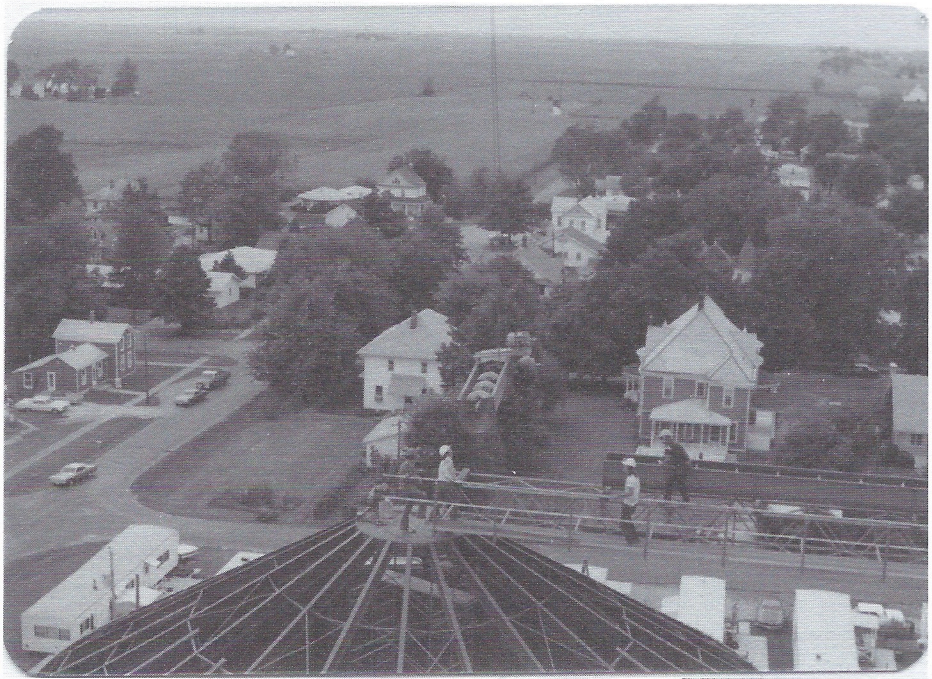


Special awards from the Centennial, Mrs. Lee Kempshall won first in "Oldest Wedding Dress," second in "Most Beautiful Old Wedding Dress" and first in "Dress of 100 Years and Over." The dress is 110 years old and was worn by Mrs. Kempshall's grandmother, Mrs. Garret Schenck when she was married October 24, 1844.

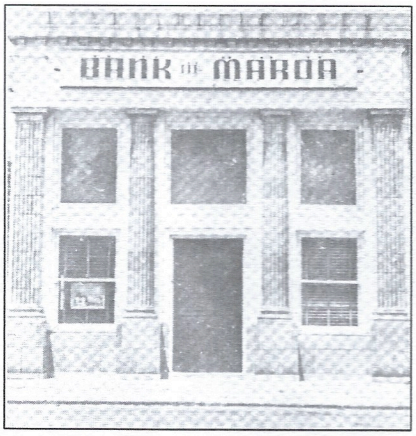


1960's era Methodist Church Sunday School.

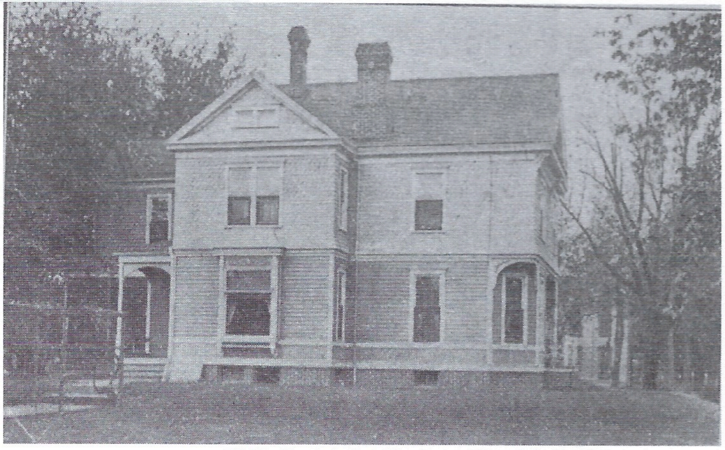
Back row: ? Randy Lienhart, Joe Woolums, Cindy Shaw: Middle row: Barbara Taylor, Terry Lienhart, Joanne Woolums, Kathy Schultz, Judy Morris, ?, Linda Meador: Front row: James Leach, Ellen Sronce, Renee Stoutenborough, Marilyn Boomer, ?, ?, Faye Leach and Margo Johnson.



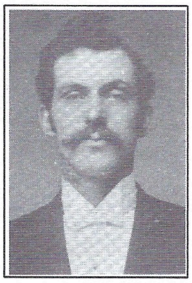
When the elevator built the catwalk in 1974, they took this picture looking Southwest of Maroa.



Facade of bank that shows Bank of Maroa. This building is on the northeast corner of Main and Walnut Street.



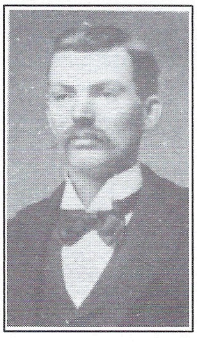
V. R. Grady's Residence, at East Main Street.
Recently (in 1910) purchased by T. N. Leavitt.
The house was moved to 219 North Maple.
Photo courtesy of Charles E. Leach.

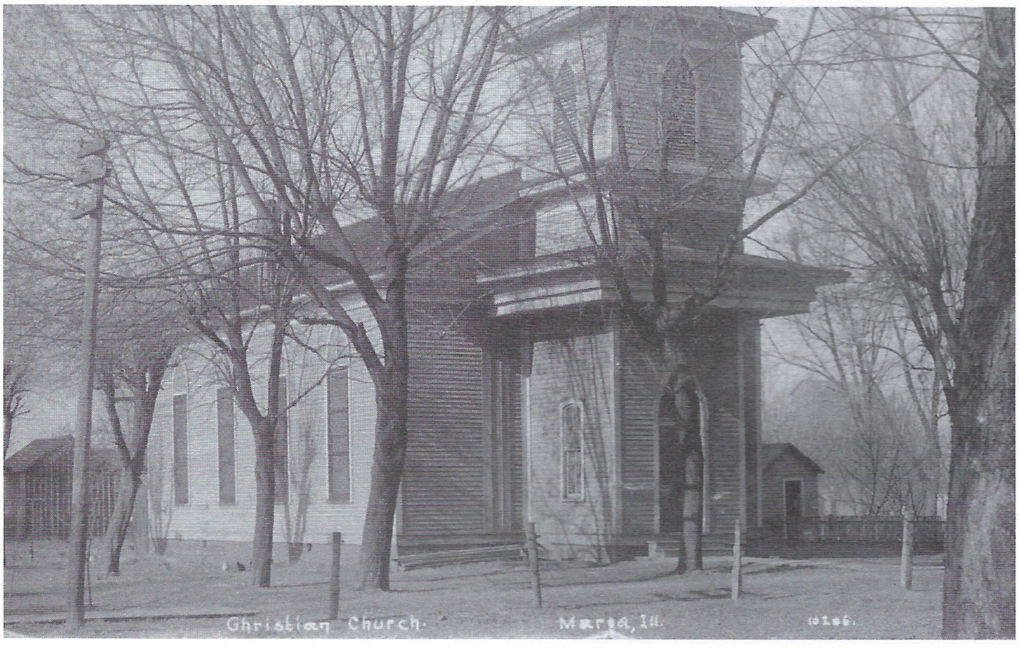


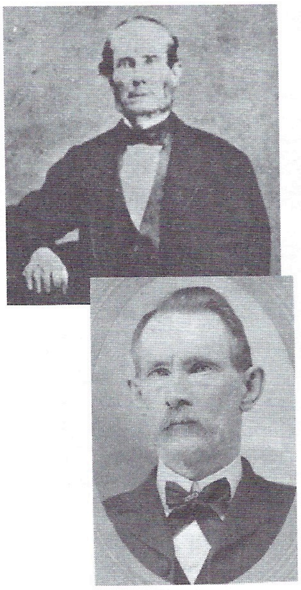
Charles W. Wikoff
born
October 22, 1864
picture circa 1892.

Picture of the Christian Church before 1900. Postcard courtesy of Larry Nix.

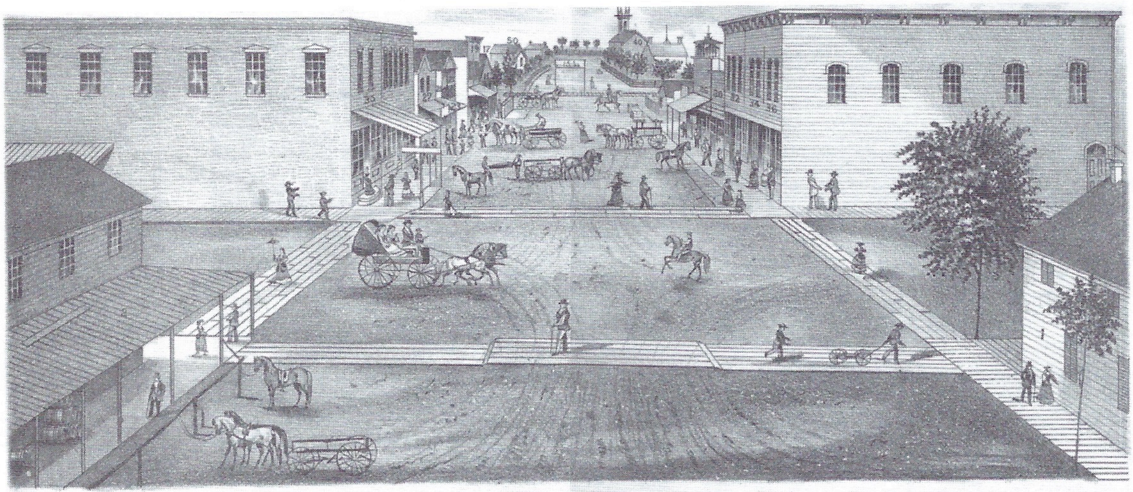
William Augusta Wikoff
(below) born
August 24, 1867





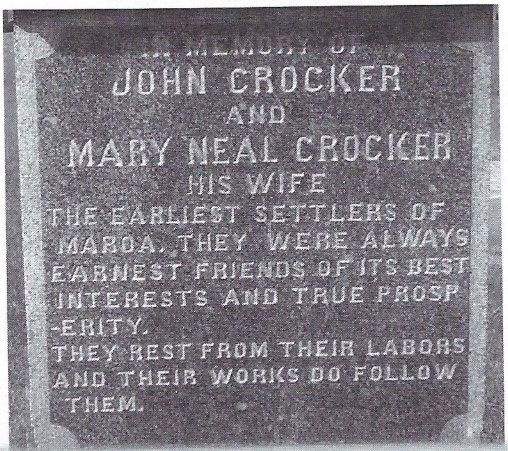


John Kempshall Sr. (top) and John Kempshall Jr.



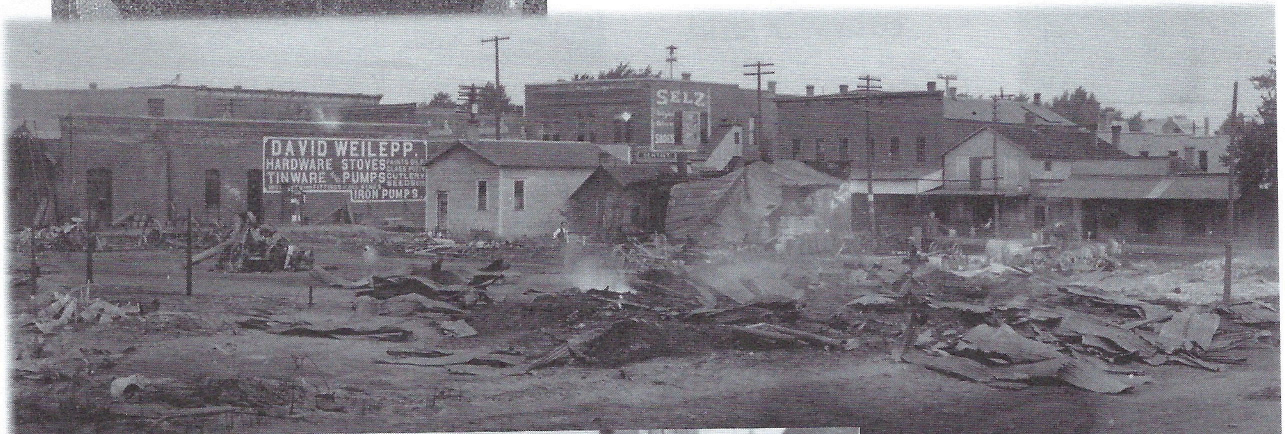
EAST PART OF SOUTH STREET, MAROA, ILLINOIS.

No. 2. Thayer & Kent.—Groceries, Hats and Caps, Boots and Shoes, Crockery, Glassware, etc.
" 35. R. E. Andrews.—Dry Goods, Clothing, Hats and Caps, Boots and Shoes, etc., etc.
" 27. J. A. Bogle.—Furniture dealer and Undertaker.
" 25. Cox & McGlade.—Groceries and Meat Market.
" 23. M. Friedman.—Dry Goods and Clothing.
" 21. W. H. Hartman.—Stoves and Tinware.
No. 19. Beatty & Persinger.—Saddles, Harness, Whips, and Saddlery Hardware, etc.
" 17. J. H. Crocker.—Hardware dealer.
Crocker & Co.—Bankers and Grain dealers,
" 15. C. F. Emery.—Banker.
" 1. G. J. Schench.—First building erected in Maroa.
" 36. Rogers & Collins.—Dry Goods Merchants.
" 34. Smith Bros. & Leavett.—Groceries and P. O.
No. 32. Camp & Grady.—Groceries, Hats and Caps, Boots and Shoes, etc., etc.
" 50. L. Tozer, M.D.
" 30. Austin & Gault.—Drugs and Medicines, Paints, Oils, Books, Stationery and Wall Paper.
" 26. J. S. Clough & Son.—Furniture and Undertaker. A good Hearse always on hand.
" 40. Presbyterian Church.

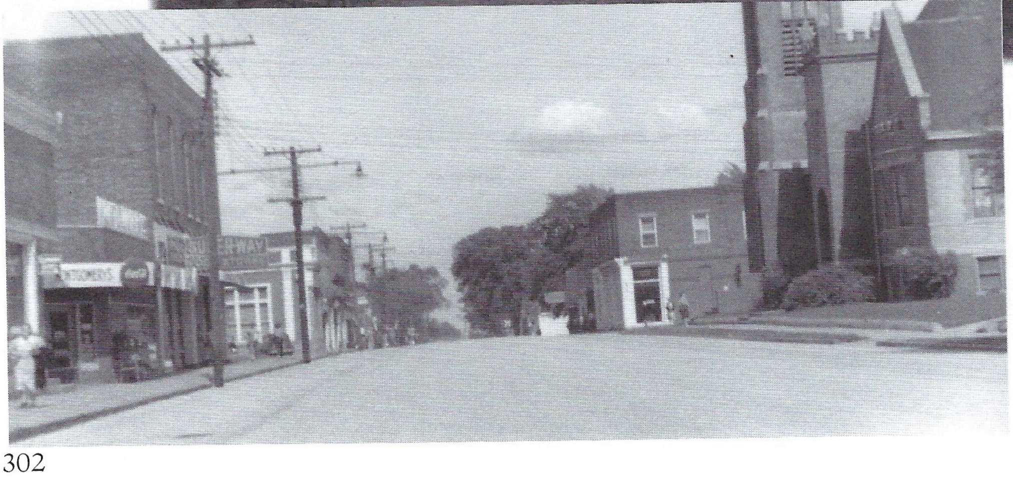


IN MEMORY OF
JOHN CROCKER
AND
MARY NEAL CROCKER
HIS WIFE
THE EARLIEST SETTLERS OF
MAROA. THEY WERE ALWAYS
EARNEST FRIENDS OF ITS BEST
INTERESTS AND TRUE PROSP
-ERITY.
THEY REST FROM THEIR LABORS
AND THEIR WORKS DO FOLLOW
THEM.

Stoutenborough

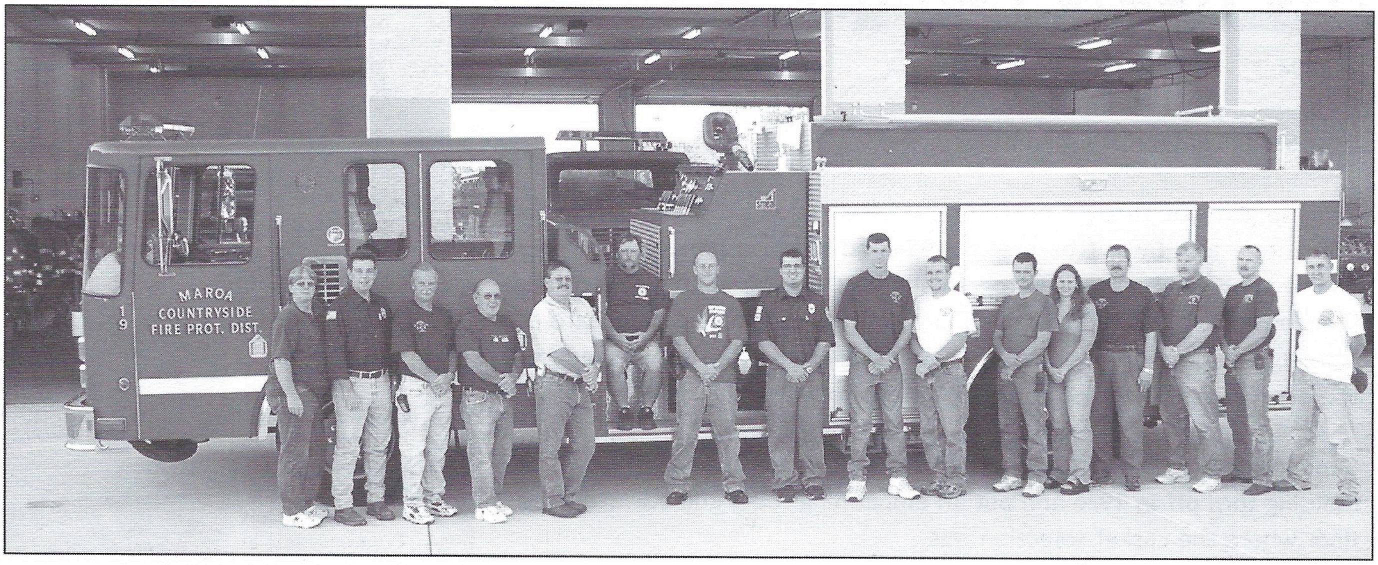


Aftermath of 1913 Main Street Fire. (above)



Picture of Main Street Cir 1960's from Wood Street looking East.

2004 MAROA VOLUNTEER FIRE PROTECTION FORCE



Left to right: Rich Underwood, Brad Roberts, Rick Goad, Frank Shofner, Captain Larry Peasley, Scott Shofner, Mike Hoffman, Dan Kennedy, Greg Wilson, Jamie Zombro, Tom Agee, Amy Agee, Dominic Epilito, Al Darelius, Curt Dunham, JD Peasley

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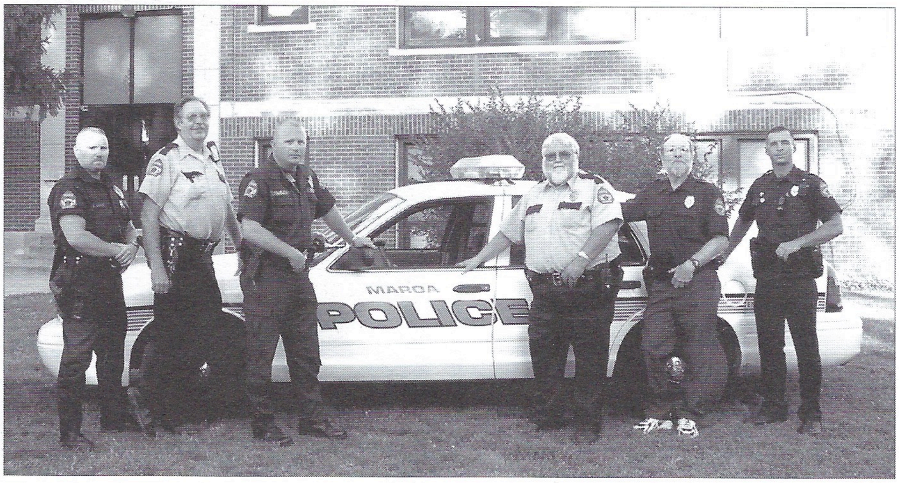
2004 MAROA POLICE FORCE



Photograph was taken in front of the Maroa Grade School (south east corner of Main and Locust), which was just this year 'retired' from use by the school district and will be come the property of the city of Maroa. The officers are Left to right: Scott Gaddy, Bill Whiteman, Dave Liambach, Chief Brad Wilkey, Mike Bricker, Dayton Keyes. Not pictured: Toby Schneider

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2004 WATER DEPARTMENT

Photograph was taken in front of the old water treatment plant on North Wood street. Left to right: Scott Shofner, Bill Zombro, Mike Hoffman.

The Ruble Family

2/2004

Dear Sesquicentennial Committee:

I was so glad you thought of us for the celebration in September. I know it's quite a job. I was treasurer in 1954 and because someone had to be on the phone 24 hours a day toget calls for the funeral home we owned, I missed some of the activities. In fact, for the parade Ted Blanchard put a telephone on the vacant lot by Kammarmeyer's store so we could see the parade. We gave a prize and Bill McGuire won it.

Caplinger started the funeral home in 1908. He had the east end of the building torn off in 1926 and put an embalming room and elevator to 2nd floor where the casket selection was.

No one had ever lived there except when they had a funeral. We remodeled the 2nd floor in April of 1950 for our living quarters. In 1957 we added chapel to south and added a garage to house 4 cars. Bill Berry's truck brought sand for garage floor. William Sinkosky built the south chapel. In 1968 Dawson and Wikoff bought it from Roberta and I (Roberta was also a licensed funeral director) and I became manager. Our phone calls were then answered in their Decatur office.

We retired in 1985 and moved to Naples, Florida. Our daughter Delores was born in 1957, graduated Maroa-Forsyth High School in 1975, and Illinois State University in 1980. She taught school 3 years in Redick, Illinois and 19 years in Naples, Florida. She has a daughter Charity who is 15 and a freshman at Barron High. She is on a 47-member flag line in a 300-member band.

We keep busy. Roberta sings in a church choir. I had a garden until 2 years ago; I now have two new knees. We still had 11 pineapples this year. We also have a lemon tree. We certainly enjoy the Maroa city newsletter and the Maroa Methodist Church newsletter. We also take the Decatur Tribune. We love our Maroa friends but not your cold weather!

~Leo Ruble

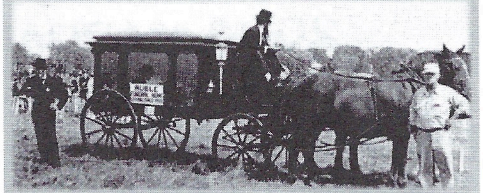
Leo Ruble Treasurer, 1954 Centennial

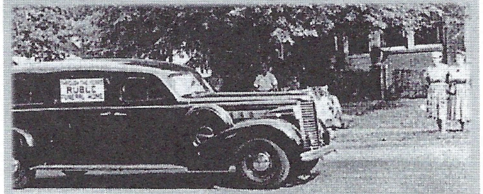
RUBLE
FUNERAL
HOME

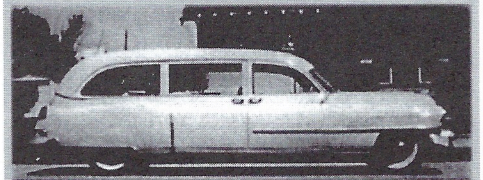
Delores Ruble standing by funeral home sign at the corner of Lincoln and Wood, December of 1959. Site of the Calvert Funeral Home in present-day Maroa.

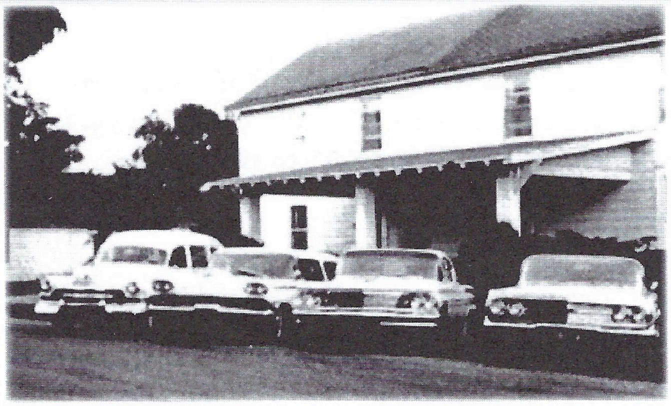
HEARSES THROUGH THE YEARS

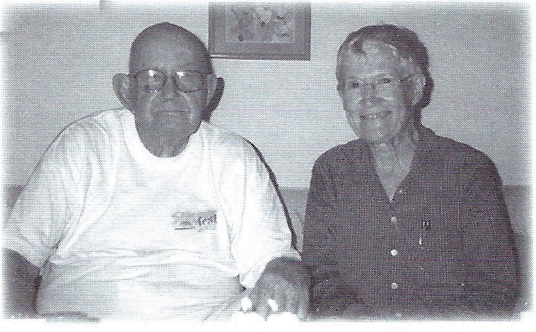
These were our Centennial parade entries back in 1954











35 years of living in Maroa will never be forgotten. What wonderful people!

~Roberta Ruble

JOHN & MARGIE COOK

Maroa residents John and Margie Cook look forward to their return to Maroa after five years in Vienna, Austria. In 2000, John accepted a temporary assignment with the International Atomic Energy Agency, a United Nations organization, in Vienna. Since then they have enjoyed the old world splendor of Vienna and they have travelled throughout Europe and the world. John serves as the leader for international inspection teams that visit nuclear power plants throughout the world. Margie often accompanies him on inspection trips and she has devoted much her time in Vienna to developing her German language skills.

In Vienna they have an apartment near the center of the city, just a short tram ride from the Opera, St. Stephans Cathedral and the Hofburg Imperial Palace. Since Austria is a small country, it is easy for them to travel to other countries in the region. Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic are only about 30 minutes away by car. Their most recent travel was along the Adriatic coast of Croatia where they visited the cities of Split and Dubrovnik.

Of course, their true home is Maroa and they are anxious to return to their friends in a short while.

In Memory of the

Shoemaker Family

John and Iva Shoemaker

daughters

Cleo Shoemaker Hilt
Wilma Shoemaker Cline
grand - daughter
Sharon L Johnson

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
FROM

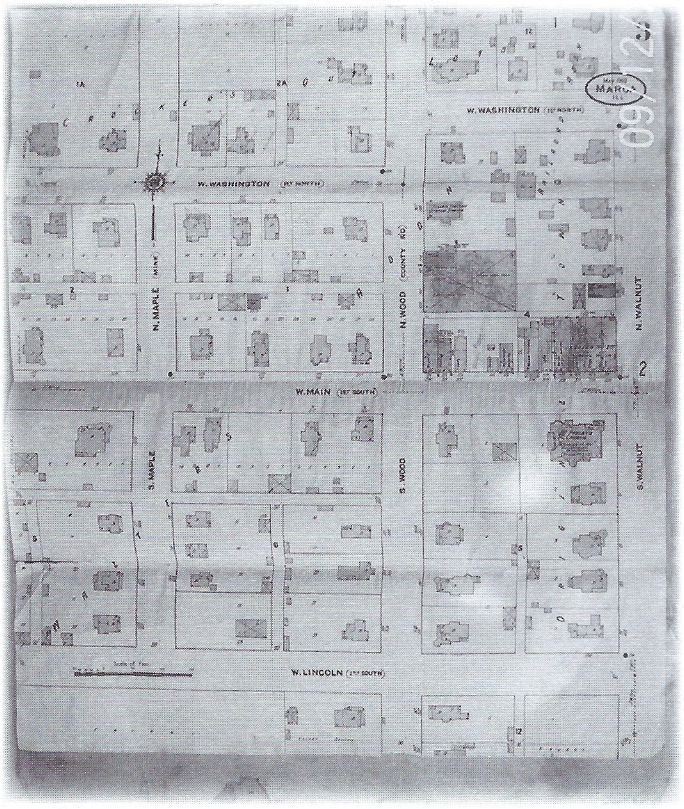
NEWS/TALK 1340

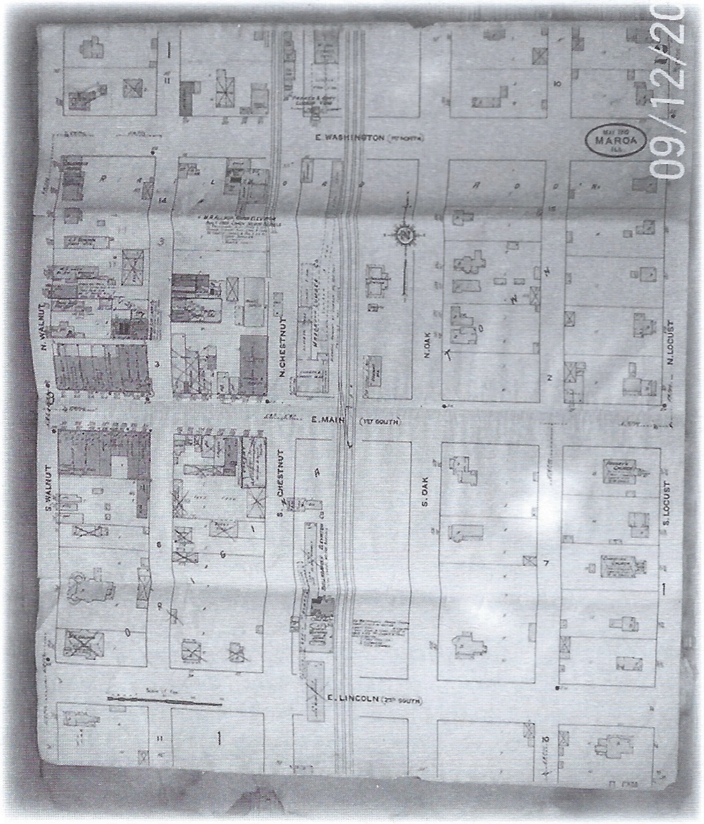
WSOY

THE VOICE OF
MAROA

PLAT BOOK MAROA MAPS FROM THE 1900s

Provided by Larry Nix


MAROA ILL.
W. WASHINGTON (1ST NORTH)
W. MAIN (1ST SOUTH)
W. LINCOLN (2ND SOUTH)
N. MAPLE
S. MAPLE
N. WOOD (COUNTY RD)
S. WOOD
N. WALNUT
S. WALNUT
09/12/2


MAROA ILL.
E. WASHINGTON (1ST NORTH)
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E. LINCOLN (2ND SOUTH)
N. WALNUT
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S. OAK
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S. LOCUST
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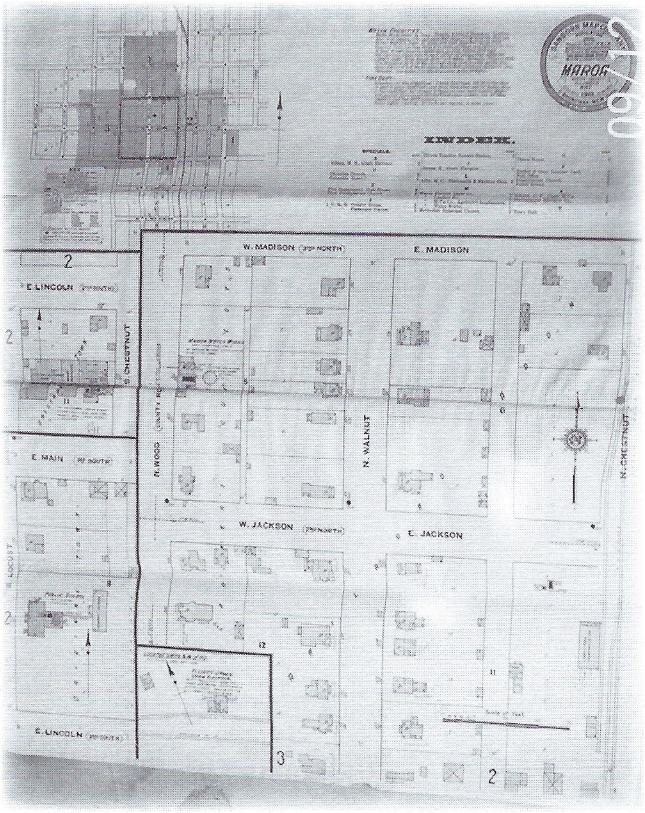

MAROA
INDEX.
W. MADISON (3RD NORTH)
E. MADISON
W. JACKSON (2ND NORTH)
E. JACKSON
E. LINCOLN (2ND SOUTH)
E. MAIN (1ST SOUTH)
S. CHESTNUT
N. WOOD (COUNTY RD)
N. WALNUT
N. CHESTNUT
09/12

Maps of Maroa with detail of the town at the street level. It shows the houses, street names (and the time when the names changed from the previous first south, second south, etc. to the current street names)

TIDBIT

Although I did not attend school in Maroa, my mother, Lenora Porter, was a teacher at the American School for a couple of years. I attended the Willow Glen School which was 2 miles on east of the American School as a first grader. My parents and family attended the Maroa Christian Church when I was growing up. David and I built our home in 1959 on North Maple Street and our children, Ellen, Wayne and Amy, have attended schools here. So I have been a part of maroa society for a long time.

~Joy Gardner, Sesquicentennial committee member, age 65

Sunday, December 14, 2003

Maroa Tour of Homes

Sponsored by the Maroa Festival Committee
Maroa, Illinois
3:00-6:00 P.M.

The Public is invited to attend the Maroa Tour of Homes on December 14, 2003. The homes on the tour date from 1901 to 2001. Each home has its own unique features and decorations.

Advance tickets may be purchased at Williams Florist, Fine Things, and the Maroa Forsyth Community Bank in Maroa, Illinois. Advance tickets are $6.00. Tickets may be purchased from 2:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Maroa Bible Church, 312 E. Jackson Street, Maroa, Illinois, for a cost of $7.00 on December 14, 2003. Refreshments are available at the Maroa Bible Church.

The Maroa Public Library, 305 East Garfield, Maroa, will have a Tour of Trees and the Annual Cookie Walk from 2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. on December 14, 2003. The Project Linus Quilts will be on display.

The Maroa Christian Church, on 430 E. Main Street, will have a Bethlehem Walk, caroling, craft booths, and a Christmas Tea. This will be from 3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. on December 14, 2003.

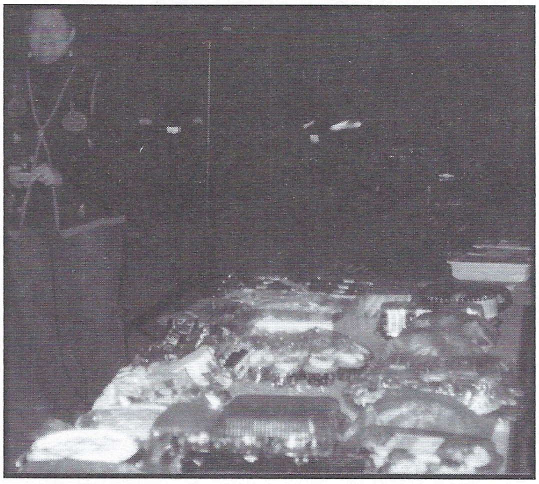
Stay in town and enjoy the Christmas Parade, at 7:00 P.M., along Main Street Maroa. After the parade, don't forget to visit Santa at the Maroa Firehouse on East Washington.

George and Diane Campbell will have the John Deere Museum open, North Walnut Street.

If you are hungry, the Maroa Lions Club is sponsoring a Chili and Soup Supper at the Maroa Community Café on Main Street, from 5:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M.

- For more information on activities or events in Maroa, visit the website: http://www.geocities.com/maroail/.

2 contestants for Halloween fundraiser

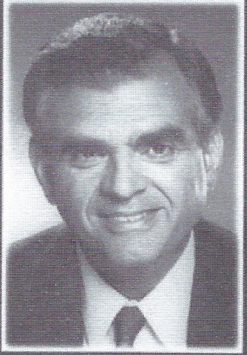


TIDBITS

Recall several favorite memories from the Sesquicentennial weekend.

The excitement of our sesquicentennial lingers on even now. So many good memories - seeing people enjoying themselves and our main street filled with people. The vintage clothing and quilt and antique rooms were so very interesting and in those rooms you saw people you hadn't seen for years. The cemetery walk was such fun. And the old-time dresses were a joy to see - took me back in years when the attire was beautiful. It was even fun to be in on some of the planning at the committee meetings - to see the enthusiasm of the members and hear what there expectations were for the weekend. So I'll always have good memories of our celebration. Except for a little over a year and 1/2 of my life, I have lived in or near Maroa. I was fortunate to celebrate the 100th year and the 150th. Best "little town" in the USA.

Ruth Ann Wilson Sesquicentennial committee member age 66



CONGRESSMAN

Ray LaHood

www.raylahood.com

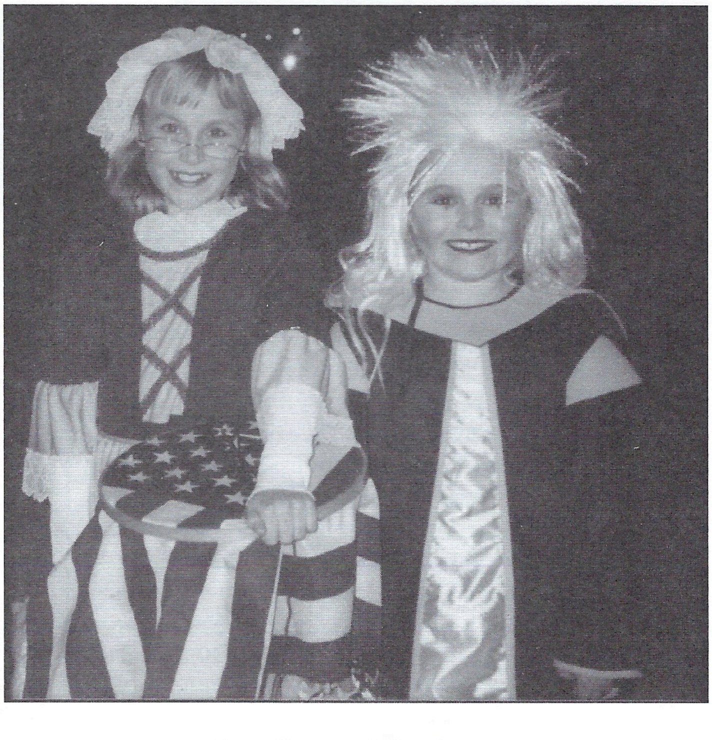
Paid for by Friends of Ray LaHood.

Congratulations Maroa on your Sesquicentennial

Strong leadership. Working for you.

2nd picture of lineup of Halloween contestants

lineup of some of contestants



Betsy Ross and friend

UNIQUE BARN TOUR

One of the fundraisers during the sesquicentennial year was a barn tour highlighting some of the older and unique barns that surround Maroa. Below are the descriptions and the pictures that folks saw on the tour on June 5, 2004

TO BEGIN THE TOUR:

June 5, 2004

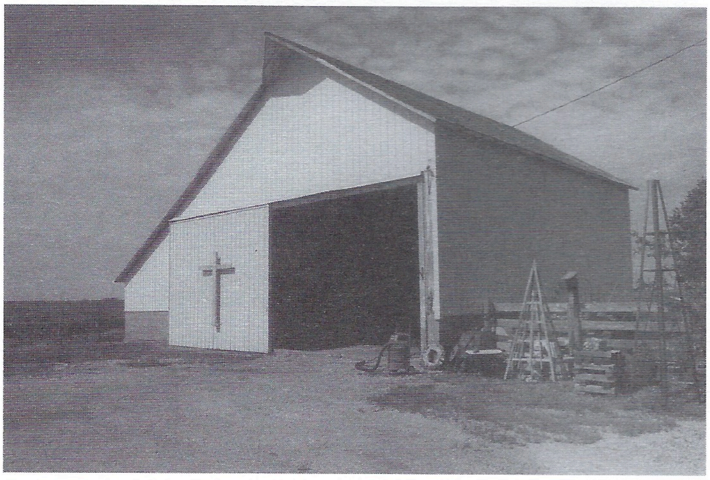
Once you have purchased your map, begin the tour by exiting the park. At the stop sign (corner of McKinley and Locust) turn right (north). Proceed to East Main Street. Turn right (east) continue around the bend in the road to the stop sign and East Washington Street. Turn right (east) on East Washington Street. Maroa Township Cemetery will be to your left on the north side of the road. Turn into the entrance with the flagpole. The cemetery is open to the public. Visitors are asked to be respectful of cemetery property and individual graves. Thanks to James Leach, Maroa Township Cemetery Trustee for the following information.

1. The Maroa Cemetery Association was formed in 1873 with each person purchasing a lot becoming a stockholder. On June 30, 1888 the stockholders met and organized by electing John Longstreet Chairman and John H. Crocker Secretary. The following were elected as Directors: John Longstreet, William T. Cooper, and William H. Stoutenborough for 1 year.
James H. Parker, John Marsh, and George Conover for 2 years.
William Rainey, Lemuel Wikoff, and John H. Crocker for 3 years.
An election of officers was then held with the following result.
James H. Parker President, John Longstreet Vice President, John H. Crocker Secretary and George Conover Treasurer.
The Mausoleum was built in 1907. The first addition was opened in 1911.

On May 1, 1937 the Maroa Cemetery Association conveyed its grounds and appurtenances thereunto belonging, comprising Maroa Cemetery, to the Town of Maroa, which conveyance has been duly accepted by said town of Maroa. On January 10, 1938 The Maroa Township Cemetery Trustees purchased 5 acres from John H. Miller for $250.00 per acre. The second addition was opened for sale January 6, 1939.

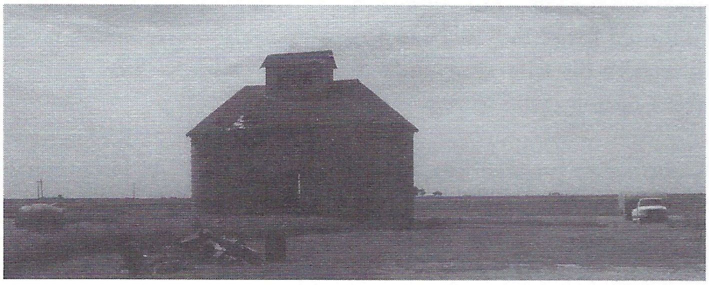
Proceed out of the cemetery and turn left (east) on Washington Street. Go approximately 2.4 miles to Brush College Road. Turn left (north) and proceed 1 ¾ mile. Turn left (west) into the lane. Visitors may walk up to the barn, however they are asked not to enter. Visitors are encouraged to notice the unique house and other outbuildings from outside the fence.

Halicki Farm (Helen B Waller Centennial Farm)



Halicki Barn

2. This saltbox structure barn is located 3 miles east and 1 ¾ mile north of Maroa, on land owned by the Helen Barclay Waller family. It became a Centennial Farm in 1972. Mrs. Waller's grandparents, the Millers lived here until the early 1930's. Ezydor and Helen Halicki moved their family here around 1936. Ezydor was a tenant farmer. Around 1941 they built the barn for livestock and to store hay. It was built on a foundation of concrete blocks and beam construction, which measured 40 x 48 ft. In 1951 Casimer and Harriette Halicki exchanged homes with his folks. Ezydor moved into the town of Maroa and Casimer moved his family out to the farm. Casimer's youngest son John fixed up the barn in the early 1960's by adding concrete floors inside so he could work on machinery and cars. When Casimer passed away in 1981, Harriette moved to Decatur and their oldest son Steve and his wife Karen moved to the farm. Steve remolded the inside by raising part of the second floor in order to get the combine in to work on it. He also added the sliding door. Inside there is a ladder that can be lifted up and out of the way or pulled down so you can get to the next level. This level is 13 foot by 30 foot and is used for storage. From this area there is a ladder that goes up about 10 foot to a loft area 27 x 30 foot. A metal roof has been added to the south side and siding to three sides. In 2003 walls were removed to make room for Steve's workshop. In the pasture you will notice a corncrib. This was used to store corn on the cob until summer. The middle section of the corncrib was used to store soybeans. This was used until 1988 when it became harder to find someone to shell the corn. The house was built in the 1890's. It had a cupola until around the 1950's when it began to leak and



Halicki Barn

Halicki Barn

was removed. This was a small structure on the roof. You could see for miles from up there.
I

Upon exiting the driveway from the previous stop, turn right (south) and proceed to Lake Fork Road. Turn left (east) and proceed 1 1/8 miles to the first house on the left. This is a stop, however you are asked to view the barn from the road. You may turn around in the drive.

Shoemaker Farm – County Line- Lake Fork Road

3. The barn was built in 1892. Joseph Shoemaker bought this farm in 1943 from Jacob Openmar. In 1944 a 24-foot shed was added. In 1952 Joseph's son Willard and his wife Opal moved to the farm and continued to raise cattle. They had five children. Gay and Eric of Maroa, Linda of Council Bluffs IA, Marsha of Schaumburg and Melody of Kansas City, Mo. Eric moved to the farm in 1992 when Willard and Opal moved into Maroa.

Turn around and proceed west on Lake Fork Road to Leghorn Road (immediate left) and turn left (south) on Leghorn Road. This is not a stop however; note the various farm structures to the left (east). Proceed south on Leghorn Road approximately 3 miles to School Road ("T" in road). Turn right (west) on School Road. Proceed west to the 4th stop. This is a stop, however you are asked to view the barn from the road.

Shoemaker Farm – School Road

4. Abe and his wife Romina Bennett Shoemaker bought this farm of 160 acres from Jasper Jones. They had one son Joseph E. Shoemaker who was born on September 29, 1896. The barn was built around 1893. It was used for hay and cattle and later pigs. In 1939 the barn was taken down and moved further east to the present location. The original house was gone but the barn was still used for cattle. In 1976 Joseph's grandson Gay built a home here with his wife Toni, and raised three children. Gay changed from raising cattle to pigs.

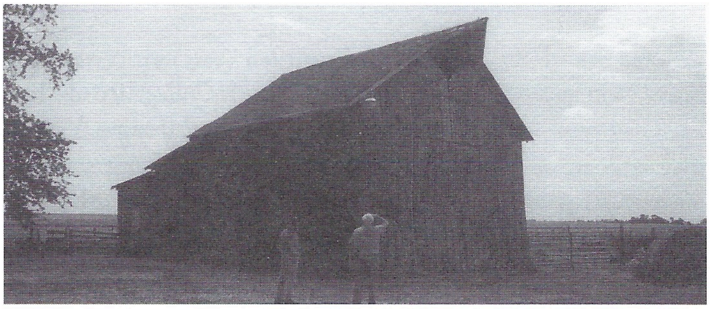
Shoemaker Barn

Shoemaker Barn - School Road

Continue to proceed west to Greenswitch Road. At Greenswitch Road turn left (south) and proceed to Hampshire Road. Turn right (west) on Hampshire road and proceed west to Sawyer Road. None of these are a stop, but take time to notice the various barns and outbuildings along the road. At Sawyer Road turn left (south). Proceed south two miles to Wise Road. Turn right (west) at Wise Road and proceed to the 1st barn on your left. This is a stop. Visitors may walk up to the building, however they are asked not to enter. Please do not feed any animals or open any gates. In addition The Forsyth / Hickory Point Historical Society will have items of interest for sale.

Malone Farm (Traver Farm and Barn)

5. In 1852, the Illinois Central Railroad owned the section of land that the present W.G. Traver farm is now a part. (For more information about the ICRR go to the Decatur Public Library, the Decatur history area and see the map of the Public Lands Domain and the sections acquired for perspective right of way). 1867 began the transfer to public ownership beginning with William Martin. During the 1870's until 1882 it changed hands several times including the ownership of Jonathan Edwards, Henry



MaloneBarn - on Wise Road

Flood, and Henry Mowry. William Traver, grandfather to William G. Traver purchased it in 1882 and by-passed his son, Charles giving ownership to his grandson in 1916. Bert McCool was an infant in 1898 when his parents lived and farmed here. Wendell Malone moved here with his parents, I.N. and Lucinda Jane (Jennie) Malone in 1903 at the age of 6. The barn was built as most barns of that era were, for a horse barn, using wooden pins in the construction. The roof of a milking shed on the east end was dropped to make a haymow. A milking shed was constructed on the west end by pouring a concrete floor and adding stanchions. Joe Parr of Argenta was the carpenter doing the first changes. The present cattle shed on the east end was built approximately 50 years ago when Wendell and Robert Malone began raising beef cattle. The farm has been farmed continually since 1903 by a Malone starting with Isaac Newton, followed by his son Wendell and grandson, Robert Malone.

After leaving stop 5 turn left (west) and proceed to the next residence on the north side of Wise Road.
This is a stop and visitors may enter the barn. Please be careful. Several antique tractors will be on display. One is a 1949 Ford 8N tractor owned by Mitchel Williams age 12 and the other is a 1950 John Deere A owned by Tyler Marsh age 11. Sean Pittman will have an antique tractor on display also. In addition, David Williams will have his 1930 Model A Ford on display.

Williams Barn

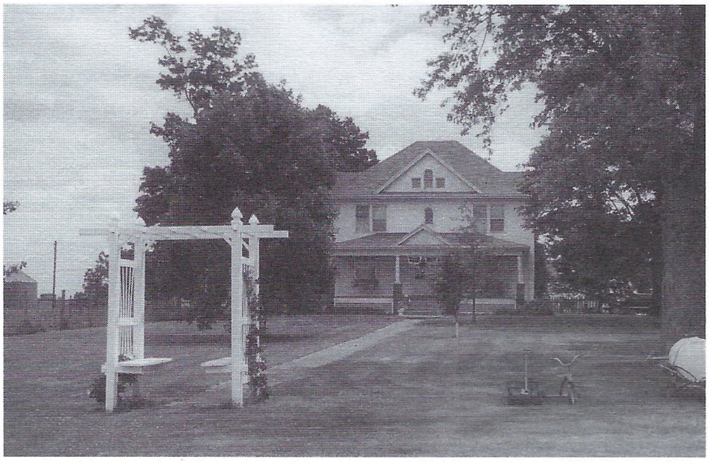
6. Current owners David and Stephanie Williams use the barn for storage. It was originally built around 1936 by Leo Parlier whose parents Charles and Sallie Parlier were the owners. The Parlier family owned the barn until 1963. The barn is constructed of beams that are drilled and pegged together. It features two types of external siding. The barn originally had three stalls for livestock, and three grain bins for storage of grain. It also had a corncrib that has been removed. The loft of the barn was used for hay and straw storage. Stairs have replaced the original ladder to the loft. Previous owners Carl and Mary Ballinger used the barn for livestock and machinery storage. According to the Ballinger's, the barn had previously been painted yellow and white. The Ballinger family owned the barn from 1963 until 1990. The current owners purchased the barn in 1990 and painted it gray. The barn sustained a sizeable amount of damage in November 1999 from an early morning storm. As a result the original metal roof was replaced as well as both overhead doors. The current owners strive to maintain and preserve the barn as a tribute to the days when barns were common in rural America.

Williams Barn

At Williams Barn - The Show of Antique Tractors and Cars

Exit the drive and turn right (west) onto Wise road and proceed west across Route 51 on Wise Road. Proceed to first road (Oakland Ave.) and turn left (south). Take Oakland Ave to the next stop, which is approximately 1 ¾ mile. This is a drive-by location. However, a yard sale will be held on the premises with antiques, bikes and junque feel free to stop and browse. You may turn around in the drive. Special thanks to Sandy Lynch for the following narrative.

Charles E. Boles "Black Bart" Previous Residence



Black Bart

7. Many residents do not realize that one of the most infamous bandits in Western history once lived north of Forsyth (about 1/3 mile east of the present road). Charles E. Boles lived with his family here in a little 3-room house in the 1860's and farmed the land. He enlisted in the Army in 1862 and served honorably in the Civil War. After his discharge he returned here and farmed a short time before setting out for the gold fields of the west, leaving his family here. On July 26, 1875, he pulled his first robbery of a Wells Fargo stagecoach. He became known as the PO8 (poet) bandit for leaving behind a bit of homespun "poetry" in the empty strongbox. It is recorded that he was the most genial and harmless of bandits, never firing a shot at anyone or robbing

any of the passengers, and always working alone. He was quite good at what he did, pulling off an amazing 29 hold-ups all of Wells Fargo stagecoaches between 1875 and 1883. His downfall was a laundry mark on a handkerchief dropped at a robbery. In his San Francisco room detectives found a Bible with the inscription "This precious Bible presented to Charles E. Boles, First Sergeant, Co. B, 116th Illinois Infantry by his wife as a New Year's gift. God gives us hearts to which His faith to believe. Decatur, Ills, 1865". It is not known with any certainty if she ever saw him again after he left Forsyth or if he sent any "loot" back to her. She and her children eventually moved to Hannibal, MO. Upon his release from San Quentin, where he was a model prisoner, he assured the press awaiting him outside the prison gates that the days of "Black Bart" and bad poetry were over – and disappeared. Wells Fargo offered a reward up until 1948 for anyone who could shed on what happened to him after he left prison. The question remains unanswered. The little house where "Black Bart" once lived was eventually moved closer to the present farmhouse to be used as a shed and about 15 years ago was dismantled. Also, note the machine shed on the north side of the house. The steel building was erected in 1950 by the present owners great-uncle and was featured in Successful Farming magazine.

After leaving the "Black Bart" location turn right (north) onto Oakland Ave and proceed to the first crossroad, Shellabarger Road and turn left (west). Proceed west on Shellabarger Road to Janvrin Road. Turn right (north) on Janvrin Road and follow Janvrin Road to the T in the road. Turn left (west) then immediately turn right (north). You will continue north on Janvrin Road. Do not stop or get out but take the time to notice several unique old farm structures along this stretch of road as you are passing by. Proceed on Janvrin to School Road. Turn right (east) on School Road and proceed to Oakland Ave. Turn left (north) on Oakland Ave and take Oakland to the next stop. Be careful not to miss this stop, as the barn is located several hundred yards off the road at the Alan and Phyllis Ruwe residence. Special thanks to Alan Ruwe for the detailed article. This is a stop and visitors may enter. Please be careful.

Ruwe Residence (Stoutenborough Barn)

8. John L Stoutenborough built the barn in 1906. It is beam and peg construction. The column support beams measure 8 " x 8". The siding, batten strips and shingles were fastened with cut nails. The barn dimensions are 36 ' wide, 40' long and 36' high. Two of John's children who grew up on the farm thought that the barn was ordered from a supplier and was delivered with much of the lumber precut and drilled. There is much evidence to support this fact. In the summer of 1998 the perimeter limestone foundation stones were removed and replaced with concrete blocks setting on poured footings to stop settlement. The original stones had no footings and are now located in the garden of a great-granddaughter of the original owner. When the steel roofing was added in summer of 1999 it was discovered that there were only two layers of wood shingles. These were the original shingles, i.e. none had been removed and they were fastened with cut nails. Siding was full cut 1"x12" with 2 " wide batten strips. Both appear to be yellow pine. Siding and trim was painted white to match the house, which had been built a year earlier. The metal siding was added in summer of 2000.

Stoutenborough on Oakland

The main hallway had 11' x 12' rolling doors on the North and South ends to accommodate machinery and wagonloads of hay and grain. The North door had a concrete ramp, which I replaced. The South door I was told had a wooden ramp, which was removed before I bought the property.

There were walk-in doors (used for livestock and as man-ways) on the west end of the north wall and on the south ends of both east and west walls. Two of these doors had wood ramps and the third had a concrete ramp, which is still present. There were also small windows for ventilation with doors for covers and no glass. There were four on the west, two on the east and two on the south. The haymow also had 12 wooden louvers for ventilation. The main hallway is 12 ' wide and most of the original wood flooring is still in place. There were four stalls on the west and two on the east. The stalls were lined with kick boards and hand adzed spindles were used between stalls and also along the main hallway. The stalls had large doorways at the back of each connecting the stalls. There were also man-way doors from the center hallway into the stalls. Each stall had its own manger and bunk for feeding hay and grain. All stalls had 2" x 12" wood flooring. Original flooring is still present in the two stalls on the east. Three granaries or grain bins are located in the northeast corner of the hallway. These were built at time the barn was erected. Grain was loaded into the bins through upper doors by scooping out of wagons that had been pulled into the hallway. (Note the scoop marks below the doors.) I was told that the pegs at the top of the hallway above the grain bins were used to hang seed for drying and preserving for planting the following spring. The multilevel floors in the mow were to facilitate hand pitching of loose hay for storage and for feeding. The lower floor was supposedly low enough so that hay could be pitched from a rack that had been pulled into the hallway. (Later the lower floor was raised to accommodate larger machinery.) A hayfork for loose hay is still on the metal track at the top of the barn. There was a large mow door at the north end for loading in the hay.

A façade of one-inch lumber covers the beams in the center hallway to create the appearance of arches and columns. The interior of the barn has never been painted since erection.

Exiting the driveway of stop 8 turn left (north) on Oakland Ave and proceed to Washington Street Road. Turn left (west) on Washington Street Road and proceed to Ridge Cemetery. Turn right (north) into the cemetery. The cemetery is open to the public

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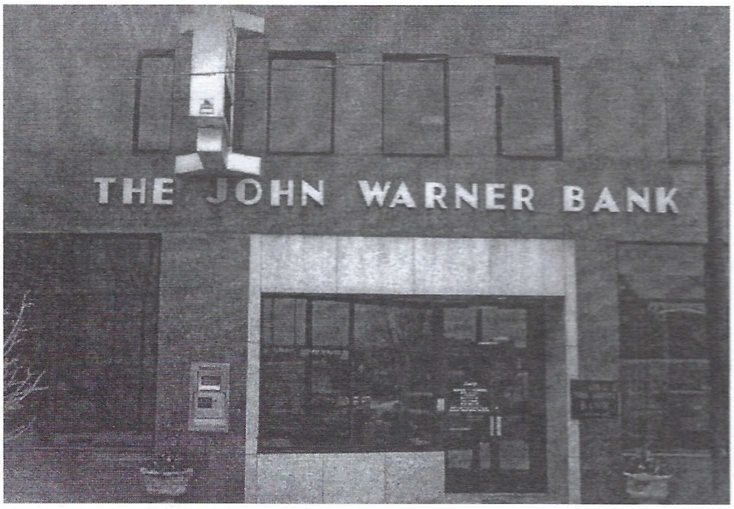

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Visitors are asked to be respectful of cemetery property and individual graves. As you look around, notice several unique monuments including the statue of a World War I soldier. The following is an account of the Ridge Gang by Samuel Braden Sr. from 1932. Special thanks to Ruth Ann Wilson who is a descendent of Samuel Braden Sr. for allowing the use of this account.

The Ridge Gang and Ridge Cemetery Area

9 and 10 "From the Hill" said Samuel Braden, retired Maroa Farmer, "You can see for Miles. I've heard tell that it is the highest point in Macon County, or the surrounding counties either for that matter". The hill that Sam Braden, Sr. indicated lies three miles west of Maroa, known as the Ridge, to residents of that vicinity. It extends from the church (the church stood in the south west corner of the cemetery) and churchyard that takes its name from the hill, to the southwest, fully a mile. The Ridge, "Highest point in Macon County" was the lookout for the outlaw band according the legend. There's a gully in the side of the hill, just south of the church there, that heads a draw. According to the stories hereabouts, when I came here in 1856, It's part natural and part not. The draw leads down to the stream that runs along the foot of the ridge. The stream has a gravel bottom that wouldn't show horse or cattle tracks. And that's the reason I guess that an old outlaw gang took the trouble to enlarge the gully. "You see the gang could keep a look-out on top of that hill and watch people approaching for miles around. This was all prairie and Maroa was just a railroad station and two log cabins. The "Ridge Gang" was probably here at least ten years before we settled here (probably about 1846)"

The leader of the gang dressed like an Easterner-dressed like a gentleman with ruffled lace sleeves, long black hair that fell almost to the shoulders and had a sharply trimmed mustache and beard. He wore a pistol at either side and across his saddlebags was tied a heavy caliber rifle. He rode a spirited stallion. The gang made their raids at dusk. They rode into settlements and selected the best horses, for the easterner would steal only the finest horse flesh, and herded them away. By morning when a posse of angry settlers took up the trail they found that it lead invariably to the creek. In the gravel bed of the creek the horses' hoofs left no trail. They were lead through the water to the branch that ran up to the spring in the side of the hill enlarging the natural gully. From no point, except the top of the ridge, can one see into the gully. It must have been an open secret among the settlers that the Ridge Gang quartered their spoils in the gully until they could be disposed of. But the marksmanship of the easterner seems to have counter-balanced any desire that the citizens might have to reclaim their property. The sheriff and the hastily organized posses of deputies are known to have visited the ridge I various occasions and they were cordially received. The easterner was a smiling genial host. But somehow the law always came back empty handed. Many of those who moved into Illinois in those days had been successful farmers in Ohio before coming here. They had farms in Ohio and usually sold them and packed their belongings into their wagons and drove west; carrying with them the gold they had received for their farms. "You will pardon me", The easterner would say in deepest humiliation and the mellowest of tones, "but I must bother you for your purse". As far as we know, no shot was ever fired by the ridge gang in a hold up. For a long time the easterner paid visits to a large farmhouse north of Maroa and one night he took with him a saddled mare. When he rode away, a dark-haired, dark eyed, girl rode beside him. The next day her parents declared that she had been kidnapped and a posse was organized to raid the Ridge Gang. But when they approached the ridge they saw no lookout and no lookout saw them. The cabins of the gang were empty. The easterner had gone farther west. Perhaps he became one of the notorious bandits of the old west or perhaps he settled down in Iowa on a farm with the dark haired girl and exchanged his foppish clothing for overalls and his polished guns for plow handles. But overnight Macon County had lost its only bid for fame in the annals of the wild west of 90 years ago (now it would be over 150 years ago).

5
Upon exiting the cemetery turn left (east) onto Washing Street Road. Follow Washington Street Road to the final stop on the. This is a stop and visitors may enter. Please be careful.

Westerman Farm (Stoutenborough Barn)

11 This barn was built about 1875 by the Potters of Maroa on land owned by Garrett Stoutenborough for his son, James H Stoutenborough. It is located about 2 ½ miles west of Maroa. It measures 42-½ foot by 42- ½ feet. A 20-foot addition was added in about 1939. Don Westerman is the current owner and a descendent of the original owners. Mr. Westerman will feature several pictures of the barn taken over the years. A 1940 Ford truck and an antique hi-wheel wagon will also be on display.

Exit the barn lot on Washington Street Road and turn right (east). You are now 2 ½ miles west of Maroa and Route 51.

On behalf of the sesquicentennial committee and the barn tour committee we would like to thank you for taking the tour. A variety of events are happening at Spencer Park in Maroa today and we encourage your participation. For a list of up coming sesquicentennial events visit:
www.geocities.com/MaroaIL

Sincerely,
David Williams,, Maroa Sesquicentennial Committee Member and Barn Tour Chairman.

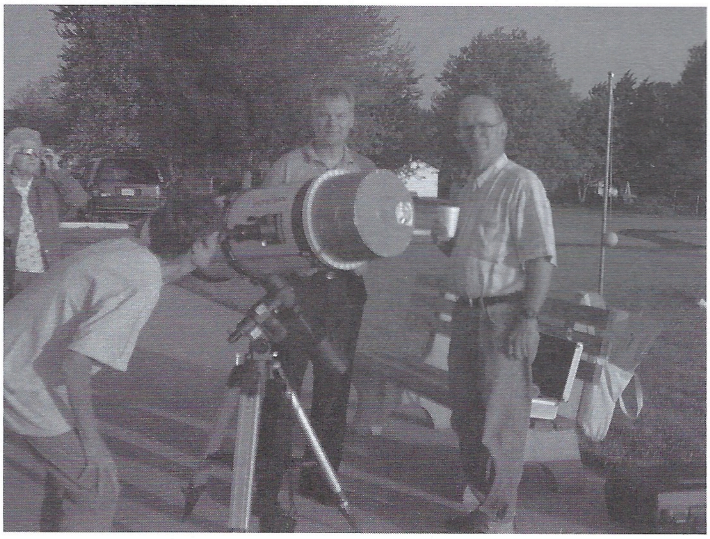
Stoutenborough Barn on Westerman Farm

TRANSIT OF VENUS

During the sesquicentennial year, the committee had several fund-raisers, and some events that were just fun and unique for the sesquicentennial birthday year. How much more unique can we get than an event of planetary alignment that last happened in 1884!

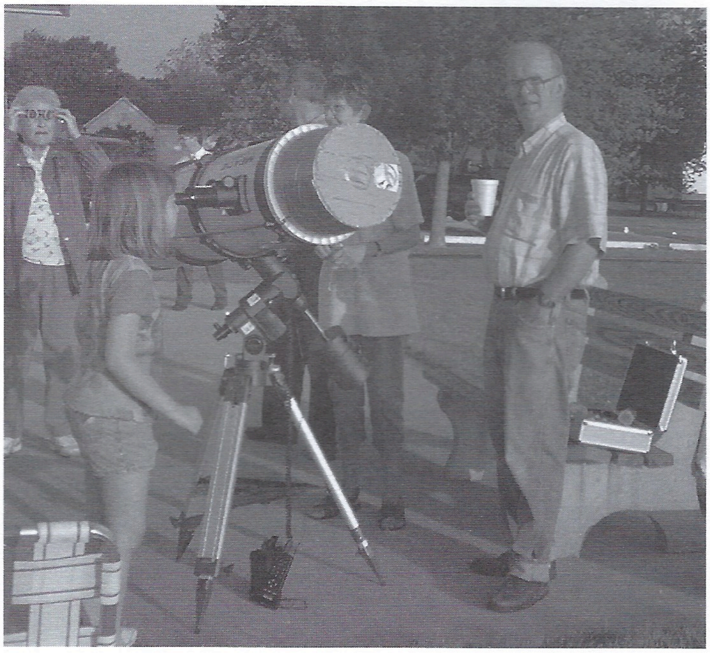
On June 8, 2004, the planet Venus moved across the face of the sun. The event is similar to a lunar eclipse, where the moon travels between the earth and sun, but is a much rarer event. The other difference is the ability to view the event. With a lunar eclipse, because the moon is so close to the earth relative to the distance to the sun, it makes it appear similar in size in the sky. Thus when the moon crosses between the sun and earth, a lot of the sun's light is blocked. With the planet Venus so far away from the earth, it is not as easy to see. Thus we purchased some of the glasses that had a special filter so one could look directly at the sun. One should never do that without the appropriate filters. Dan Ellis obtained the proper filter material to look at the sun, and allowed us a magnified view of the unique event.

However, at 6:21 am, on June 8, Venus was past the face of the sun, and it was no longer viewable. We hope many enjoyed the chance to enjoy this unique event that took us a long time to coordinate!



During the rare transit of Venus, Dan Ellis, second from right, brought his telescope to Spencer Park for everyone to be able to see a magnified view of this event.
From Left is Betty Coen looking through the special Eclipser filter glasses. Marilyn Gentle is looking through the eyepiece of the telescope, and Bob Gentle is enjoying a cup of coffee.

This 'Fun' raiser during the sesquicentennial year was a celestial event that last happened in 1884! Unfortunately, as you can see, our new digital photography is not always as reliable as the planets.

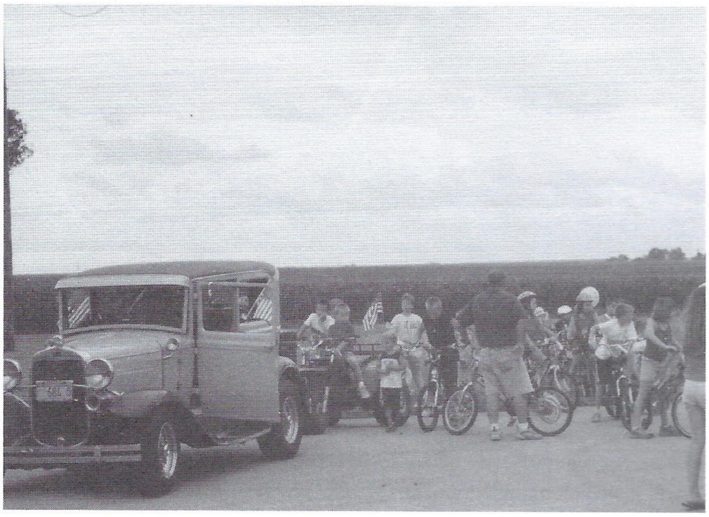


Many people got up at sunrise at 5:45 am on June 8, 2004 to watch the planet Venus move across the face of the sun. If you slept past 6:21 am central time, then you missed the rare event. The next time it will be visible in North America will be 139 years from now. Mary Ramirez takes a look through the telescope that Dan Ellis had set up at Spencer park. Behind the telescope, (l-r) Betty Coen is using her shades to look at the event. Dan is looking back, Marilyn and Bob Gentle also look on.

THUMBNAIL TIDBIT

John Dash was born in Gibson City, Indiana, in 1860 and came to Maroa at the age of sixteen. He was married in 1884 to Ida Kinnamon and ten children were born to them, seven of whom survive: Sue (Rolofson), Orville, Kate (Brockman), Earl, John, Otto, and Glenn. Mr. Dash was employed at the water-works when the boilers were hand fired. He died in 1940.

The 5 kilometer run has become a popular item as this picture at the beginning of the July 3, 2004 event can attest. Third from the right is Donna Mauzey, the coordinator of the event for the Maroa Youth League.



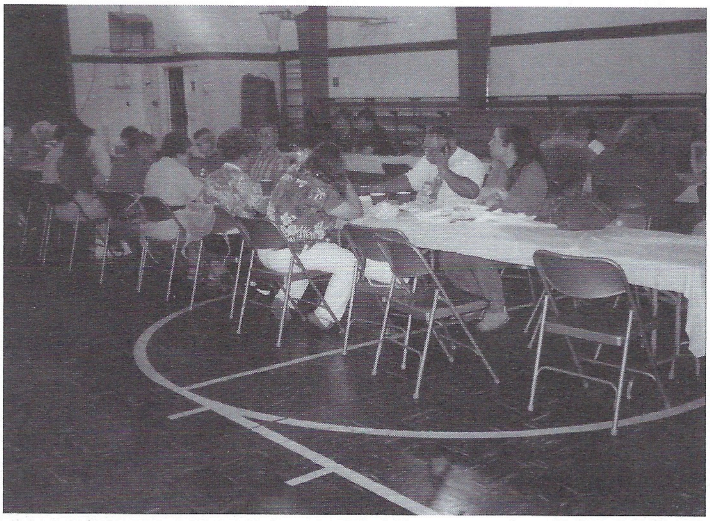
Behind the old Grade School at the south east corner of Main and Locust street, the bike parade wound down as they had started on Main street at Wood, and paraded down Main street.

As the bike parade was finished, it was an excited group that collected on the asphalt lot on the east side of the Grade school that was on the south east corner of Main and Locust street

THUMBNAIL TIDBITS

Aquilla Bennett was one of the earliest settlers in this community. He was born in Richmond County, Ohio in 1831. He married Sarah Ann Hassinger and came to Illinois in 1854, locating on a farm in Creek Township, northeast of Maroa. They were the parents of eighteen children, one of whom married Titus Query. Mr. Bennett lived to be 85 years old.

William T. Lyons was born in Coshocton County, Ohio in 1847. At the age of 16 he came with his parents to Maroa Township where he spent the rest of his life. He married Sarah Baird, a daughter of Peter Baird, and to them three daughters were born: Amy, Nelle, and Edna (Jones). Mr. Lyons died in 1916.



During the July 3 Freedom festival a Bingo game made for excitement, and a place to sit and enjoy company. This was one of the fund-raisers leading up to the Sesquicentennial festival in September 17, 18, 19, 2004.

Some people were very serious about their Bingo.

MY FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT MAROA

Sesquicentennial committee member: by Vickie Buckingham

My favorite things about Maroa include good neighbors and great schools.

What I like about living in Maroa: Most of the time, our neighborhood is quiet except for the laughter of children. We are located between two larger communities, Bloomington and Decatur, which provides easy access to goods and services that we want and/or need.

Recall a story about your school days in Maroa: It is very difficult to pick out one story about the 12 years I spent in this school district. Grade school was fun in the fall because we had an event called the Jitney Supper, which was sponsored by the PTA. Of course, there was food for all and games for the kids in the gym. High school was both fun and a great learning experience. Our education prepared us for college thanks to people like Mr. Thompson and Mr. Scarlett. Mrs. Berry was a good sport in spite of the pranks that her P.E. classes played on her. These teachers made us work hard but it paid off. Jack Haines was a great drivers ed teacher. Our class, class of 74, seemed to work as a team on the homecoming float at Stoutenborough's. We always had a good time in spite of stuffing napkins into chicken wire. Today's students don't know what they are missing. Team spirit was visible at football games and basketball games. Thirty years later, you can meet a classmate and still feel that connection.

Recall a story about life in Maroa: The 4th of July was always a great time in Maroa with the parade, decorating your bike, kid activities, food, and the wonderful fireworks. One 4th of July stands out. The grain elevator had a fire. As a child, it was somewhat frightening to think that could happen in your back yard.

Why did you volunteer to help with the sesquicentennial? The Sesquicentennial is an important time in the life of this community. Something like this may happen only once in our lifetime. Besides, this is our community and we need to participate in the decisions for the community and the activities. It is a great way to reconnect with old friends and a way to make new friends. Volunteering in your community helps you to feel connected, a sense of pride. The community may not be rich and it may be small, but there is a lot of talent. I have found the committee is very resourceful.

What are you most looking forward to with the upcoming celebration on September 17 - 19? I am looking forward to the outside community church service and lunch. The weekend is very busy with Homecoming and the Sesquicentennial. What an opportunity to show alumni how the community still pulls together on projects/activities. It is a great opportunity for alumni, from out of town, to participate in two different but fun activities in the community. It is also a great opportunity to learn more about the community's history!

MAROA SESQUICENTENNIAL
1854-2004
COME AND CELEBRATE
MAROA'S 150th
geocities.com/maroail
Sept 17,18&19
JOHN DEERE
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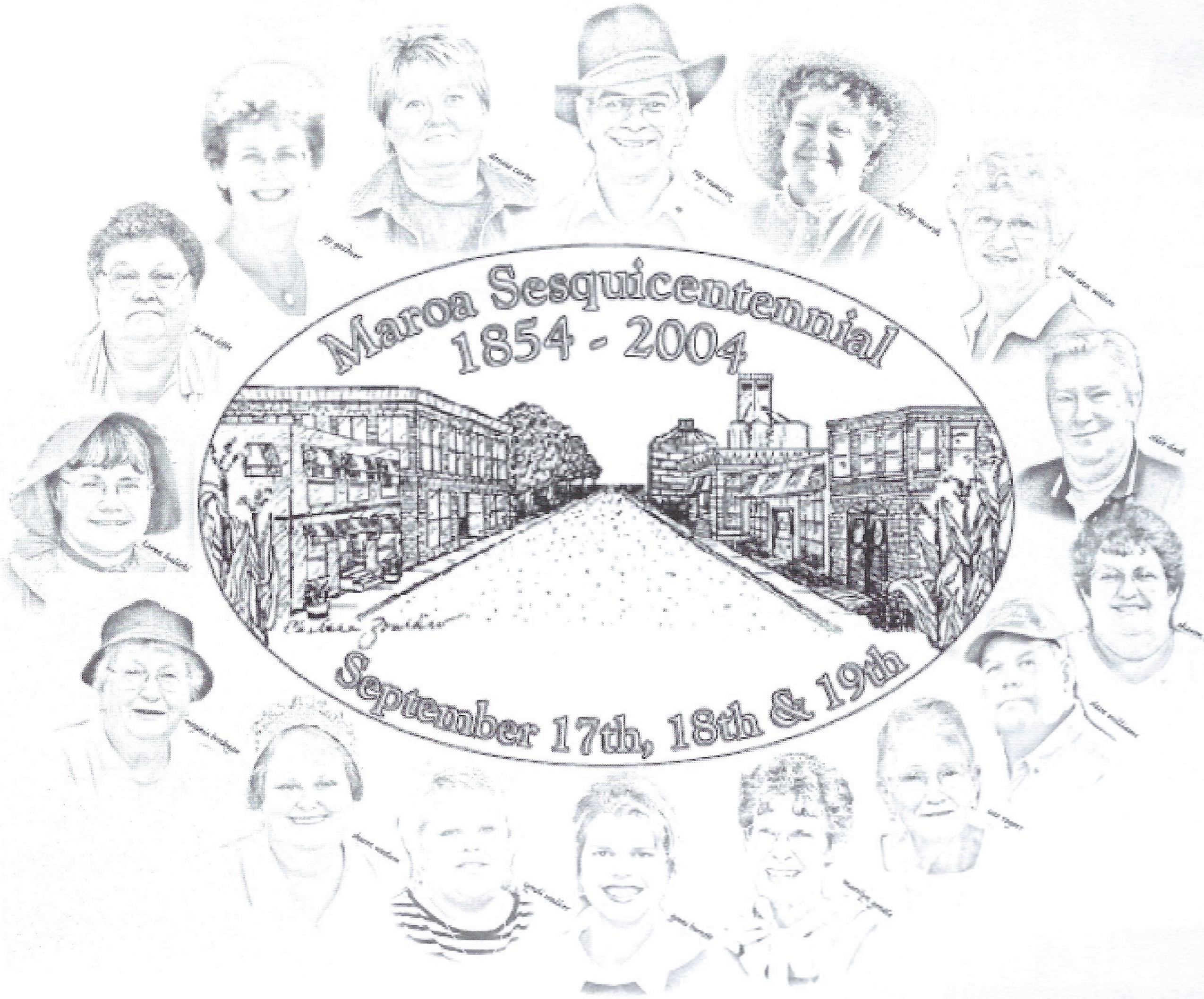
Part of the sesquicentennial promotions involved going to parades around the area. Pictured here are scenes from the Forsyth Celebration parade on June 19, 2004 in Forsyth, Illinois. Starting at upper left, Mitchell Williams in front of his old tractor. Clockwise, Tyler Marsh stands in front of his John Deere. David Williams and Karen Halicki were pulling the float with Karen sporting her traditional dress for the parade viewers.

THUMBNAIL TIDBITS

David Weilepp was one of Maroa's well-known businessmen during the early years of the century. He came to the township in 1890 to farm and moved to Maroa in 1901. He bought the J. M. Persinger Hardware store and conducted that business until shortly before his death in 1922. Mr. Weilepp's wife was Ida Moon. One son, Harry, died in France while in service in World War I. Another son, Hugh, resides in California.

Mr. and Mrs. Pius Huff were both natives of Pennsylvania and came to Maroa in 1881. They had three daughters: Leilah (Morris), Oma (Wikoff), and Marguerite (Parker). Mr. Huff was a brick mason. He died in 1905 at the age of fifty-two. Mrs. Huff was Mollie Wilt before her marriage. She died in California in 1929.



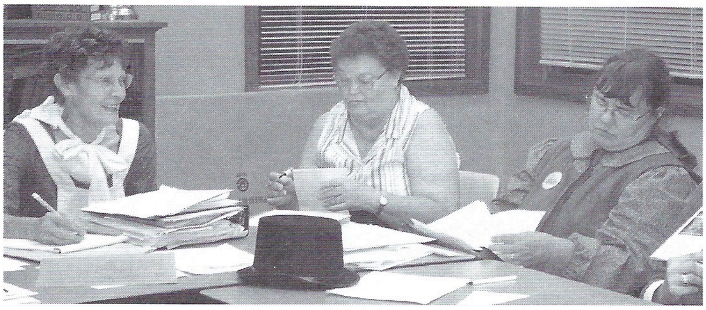
Maroa Sesquicentennial
1854 - 2004
September 17th, 18th & 19th

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sesquicentennial Committee Candids

For 2 years leading up to the Sesquicentennial festival weekend September 17-19, 2004, the committee planned for the big weekend. At this August 19 meeting, Gynni Burnett (left, weekend festival chair) explained plan B for the carnival- the Air rides that also had done the Illinois State Fair, and the St. Louis Cardinals events. Cyndi Walker (middle, treasurer) was thinking - how much is this, and Denise Carter (right, Kids block chair) was surprised. But Gynni said: "you guys are just going to love this."

Sesquicentennial book committee l-r, front: Sharon Woolum, Marilyn Gentle, back, Virginia Brockman, Ray Ramirez, Ruth Ann Wilson. Not pictured here, Kathy Marsh.



Marilyn (left, secretary) thought this was a great idea. Joan (middle) was wondering how many volunteers might be needed. Karen Halicki (right, overall Sesquicentennial chair) was still recovering from the fact that her hat on the table in front of her did not go with the outfit that so many of the ladies on the committee worked so diligently to prepare for the weekend.

Sesquicentennial committee members front l-r: Cyndi Walker, Gynni Burnett, in back, Denise Carter.

Sesquicentennial committee members l-r front: Virginia Brockman, Sue Rogers, Joan Dobbs, back, Ray Ramirez, Sharon Head, Orville (Ollie) Dash.

As the discussion continued in the Maroa Public Library, Sue Rogers (left) started taking notes, Joy Gardner (middle, Craft & Antique, 1800's crafts, quilt show) was becoming more convinced. Marilyn (right) still thought it was a great idea.

Ollie Dash (Left, city council rep) and Sharon Head (middle, city treasurer) were encouraged by the idea of the Air Ride carnival coming. Sharon Woolum (right, Oldywed game, kiss a pig, Sesquicentennial book) just thought "Miss One meeting and I am assigned the "Kiss A Pig Contest"!

Sesquicentennial committee members: front l-r Karen Halicki, Marilyn Gentle, back, Cyndi Walker, Gynni Burnett.

Ruth Ann thought the idea was great that at such a late time, Gynni could find another ride carnival that would allow the children to have fun during the Sesquicentennial. Ray was wondering what happened to the carnival that was lined up that had the Ferris wheel, and other 'traditional' rides. Gynni explained that over the past 3 weeks, she had not received any responses to her messages, so she decided to go with a back up plan. The meetings at the Library over the previous year, had certainly created an atmosphere of excitement, and it was aalways sad when some of the committee, like David Williams and Kathy Marsh, could not attend the meeting.

Sesquicentennial recipe book committee l-r: Joy Gardner, Karen Halicki, Marilyn Gentle.

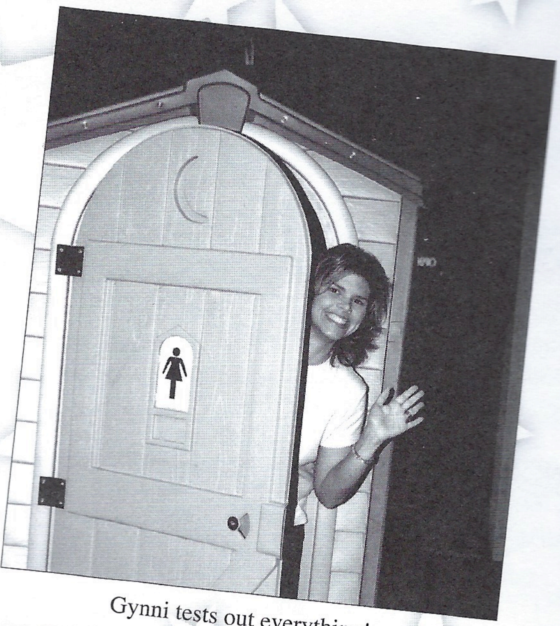
TIDBIT

Why did you volunteer to help with the sesquicentennial? I worked on the book because I wanted to help leave a record of Maroa history for future generations. I worked on the festival in general because I wanted to evoke in each citizen a sense of pride for living in the best small town in America...Maroa 61756.

Sesquicentennial committee member Sharon Woolum Age: 47

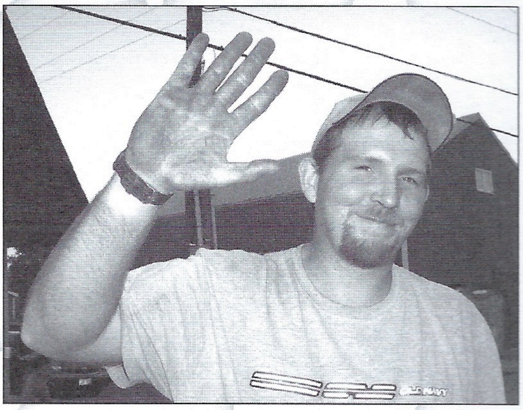
GETTING READY FOR THE CELEBRATION!

A surprised Marilyn Gentle (far right) is helped by fellow committee members (from left) Cyndi Walker, Denise Carter, Mark Walker and Gynni Burnett.



Gynni tests out everything!

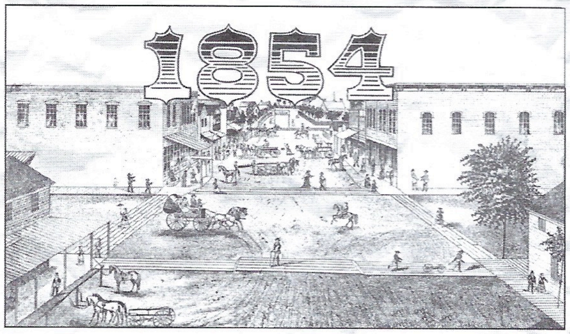
Denise marks off the Kid's Corner.

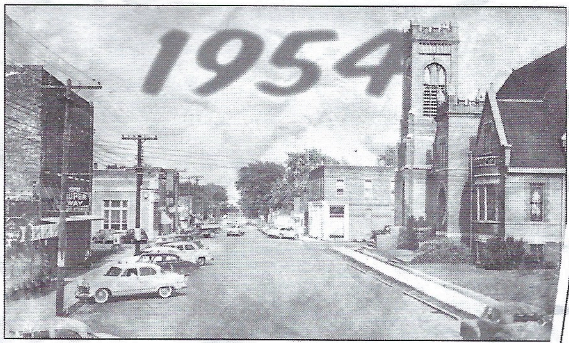


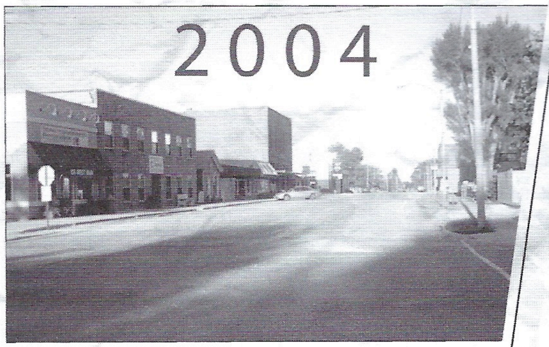
Our electrician, Marc Stuart.

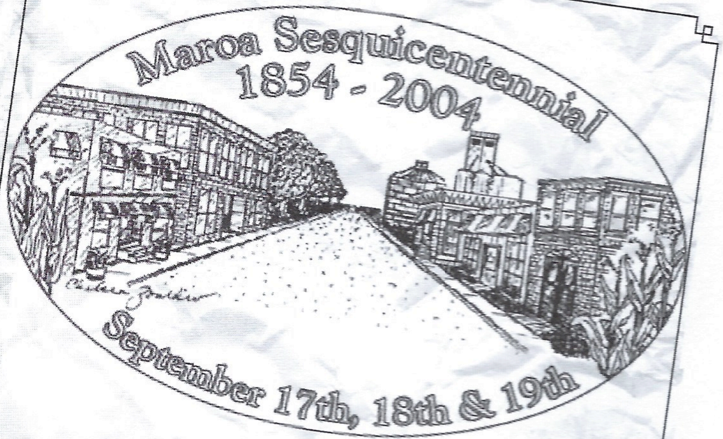
Checking Out The Trolley! Front: Kaylee Walker, Denise Carter, Gynnie Burnett, Darlene Goodman, Jo Ann Dobbs, Donna Cunningham, Mary Leach and Dave Williams. Back: Frank Shofner, Karen Halicki, Marilyn Gentle, Betty Coen, Kathy Hill and Ray Ramirez.

OH, WHAT A WEEKEND WAS PLANNED!

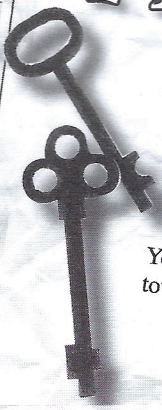







Maroa Sesquicentennial
1854 - 2004
September 17th, 18th & 19th

PROGRAM BOOK



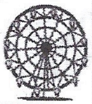
Your key to all that is going on around town in honor of Maroa's 150 years of small town living at its best!

Happy 150th Birthday Maroa!

Welcome to our Sesquicentennial celebration! After months of fundraising and planning, we hope we have put together a festival that is full of fun and entertainment. If you learn a little bit about our town's history along the way, that's a bonus! Welcome old friends, make some new friends, enjoy all that we have to offer this weekend as we salute our town
Maroa, Illinois....
Small Town Living At It's Best!

FRIDAY, SEPT. 17TH EVENTS

6:00	**Opening Ceremony**	**Stage 1**
	Introduction of Mayor Agee and former mayors Sesquicentennial logo designer Chelsea Zombro King & Queen introduction Brothers of the Brush Sisters of the Swish Newest Married Couple from 1954 Newest Married Couple from 2004	
6:00-10:00	**Maroa's 150 Years Pictorial Display**	**M & M Cafe**
7:00	**Hypnotist Daryl Corrington**	**Stage 2**
8:00-11:00	**Modern Cowboyz**	**Stage 1**



CARNIVAL 6:00 TO MIDNIGHT

SATURDAY, SEPT. 18TH EVENTS

8:00	5K Run	Stage 2
10:00	Parade (map included in this brochure)	Streets of Maroa
10:00	Arts & Craft Show	Main Street
11:00-12:30	Open house tours of new and old high schools	
11:00-7:00	Kid's Corner (at Kid's Area)	Main Street
11:00-2:00	Tractor Show	Walnut Street (by bank)
11:30-4:00	Car Show (sponsored by Maroa Fireman)	Main Street
11:00-12:30	Waterloo German Band	Stage 1
11:30	Fashion Show	Stage 2
Noon-11:00	Carnival	Main Street
Noon-8:00	Maroa's 150 Years Pictorial Display	M & M Cafe
Noon-4:00	Frontier Village: 1800s Crafts	Old Grade School grounds
	Quilt Show	Old Grade School classrooms
	Antique Show	Old Grade School classrooms
	Maroa Historical Memorabilia	Old Grade School classrooms
1:00	School Auction	Maroa Middle School
1:00-4:00	Night Moves band (oldies)	Stage 1
1:00-3:00	FFA Kid's Tractor Pulls	Walnut Street (by bank)
2:15-3:45	Russ Howe	Stage 2
2:00; 3:00 & 4:00	Cemetery Walk	Maroa Cemetary
2:00	Husband Calling Contest	Stage 2
2:00-4:00	Cake Walk	Christian Church
3:00-5:00	FFA ATV Rodeo	Walnut Street (by bank)
3:45	Kiss A Pig Contest	Stage 2
3:30	Kids Parade (at Kid's Area)	Main Street
4:00	DJ music	Stage 2
4:30	Country Cloggers	Stage 1
5:00	Pork Chop Dinner	Old Grade School Gym
5:00	FFA Bossie Bingo (near Township Hall)	Walnut Street
5:30	Oldywed Game	Stage 1
7:00	Ray Lytle & Itchy Pickles	Stage 1
7:00	Bingo for Prizes	M & M Cafe
8:00-11:00	C-4 band	Stage 2
9:00	Fireworks	High School

SCHOOL AUCTION

With all the changes taking place with the school buildings this year and the closing of Maroa Grade, the school system was stuck with many things that cannot be used by the schools. The solution? At 1:00 in the Maroa Middle School (old high school), those discarded items will be auctioned off to the public. Don't miss your chance to own a piece of history!

PORTA-POTTY DECORATING CONTEST

Now how many families or businesses can say they have adopted a porta-potty? Or decorated one? Here's your chance. Four have already been spoken for but we still have four available. Prizes given! Call Karen Halicki at 794-5508 to adopt yours today!

SUNDAY, SEPT. 19TH EVENTS

9:00	Community Church Service	Stage 2
10:00	Arts & Craft Show	Main Street
11:00	Chicken Dinner	Christian Church grounds
11:00-5:00	Kid's Tent (at Kid's Area)	Main Street
11:00-12:30	Wesley Wranglers	Stage 2
Noon	Birthday Cake	M & M Cafe
Noon	Antique Appraisals	Grade School gym
Noon-4:00	Frontier Village: 1800s Crafts	Grade School grounds
	Quilt Show	Grade School classrooms
	Antique Show	Grade School classrooms
	Maroa Historical Memorabilia	Grade School classrooms
Noon-6:00	Carnival	Main Street
Noon-6:00	Maroa's 150 Years Pictorial Display	M & M Cafe
Noon-5:00	Brown's Oakridge Exotics & Zoo	Grade School grounds
Noon - 6:00	Kid's Corner	Main Street (Lumber Yard)
12:15-1:30	Hypnotist Daryl Corrington	Stage 1
1:00	City Picture	Main Street
1:00-2:30	4-Given band	Stage 2
1:45-2:45	King Family	Stage 1
2:00	New Wrestling	Main Street Near M & M Cafe
2:00	Old-Tyme Baseball Game	Grade School diamond
3:00-4:00	Kids' games	Behind old Grade School
3:00-6:00	Country Thunder band	Stage 1
3:00-6:00	Nathan Price	Stage 2
3:00	Sharp Karate	
4:00	Porta Potty judging	Stage 1
6:00	Closing Ceremonies	Stage 2
	• Porta Potty Winner • Tree Dedication by 4-H Club • Time Capsule • Thank You	

CHICKEN DINNER

Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the Catered Chicken Fry at the Christian Church. $5 adults...$3 children. Advance tickets recommended-limited number of tickets sold that day. Tickets available at Fine Things, Coastal, Sun Spot, Christian Church or any Christian Church member!

OLD-TYME BASEBALL

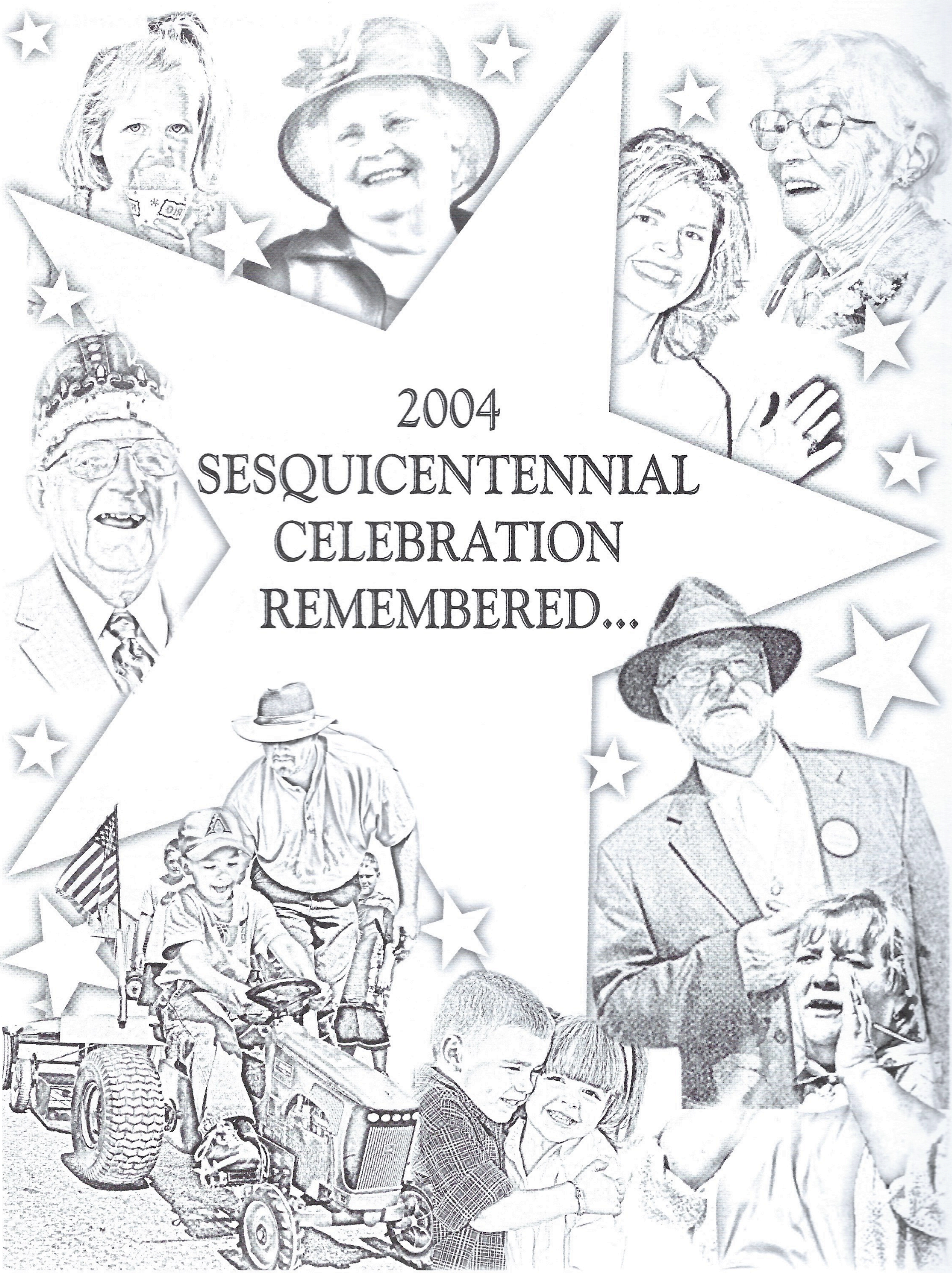
Don t miss the Rock Springs Ground Squirrels in 1800s uniform shirts take on our own Sesquicentennial Sluggers. Grab a spot on the bleachers, a bag of popcorn and let your kids see how baseball used to be played!

KIDS GAMES

For kids ages pre-school through junior high. Behind old grade school. 3:00-4:00 p.m. Sunday

KIDS CORNER

Activities for all ages...Legos, yoyos, sandbox, games, etc. All Sunday afternoon!



2004
SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION REMEMBERED...

PEPSI
150TH
STAGE
SPONSORED BY M&M CAF

2004 Maroa Sesquicentennial Opening Ceremonies
September 17, 2004

2004 Maroa Sesquicentennial
Longest Married Couple
Stanton & Faye Malone

2004 Maroa Sesquicentennial Queens
Edna Rogers &
Ernestine Crabtree

2004 Maroa Sesquicentennial Kings
Stanton Malone &
Harold Crosno

Newest Married Couple in 1954

ELMO & FRANCES BURKS

1954 Centennial King & Queen

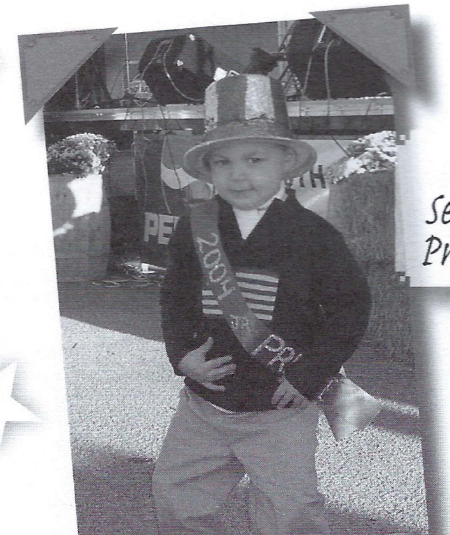
LONNIE MCCLUNG & ESTHER DUBSON

PARKER BARRETT

2004 Sesquicentennial Prince & Princess

2004 PRINCESS

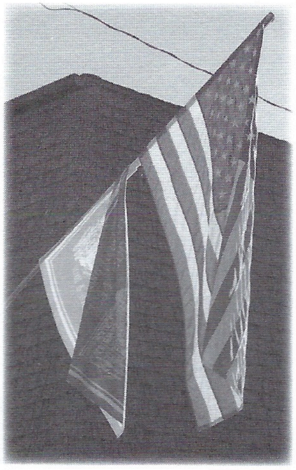
MARIAH HARRIS



2004 Junior Sesquicentennial Prince & Princess

BRENTYN BURNETT

COURTNEY WEIKLE
with mom Peggy Weikle



Maroa native
Dawn Eagler Nibbelin
sings the
National Anthem

Another Maroa native was honored for her artistic talents. Sesquicentennial logo designer Chelsea Zombro is the great-great-great granddaughter of John Crocker, Maroa's first postmaster and the great-granddaughter of Dr. McClean, an revered physician in Maroa for years.

FESTIVAL
OUR MEMBERS
OF THE ARMED FORCES
BANK
PAST, PRESENT
AND FUTURE!
WE BELIEVE
IN MAROA!

The crowd for the opening ceremony was awesome!

Macon County Board member and Sesquicentennial Committee member David Williams (left) reads and presents proclamation to Maroa Mayor Ted Agee (right)

Mayor Ted Agee's opening statement,
September 17, 2004 opening remarks:

150 years is a huge milestone. More so when you consider that not only has our community survived, but that it has continued to flourish and grow. We constantly examine ourselves looking back at the past for guidance, and to the future for inspiration.

We've changed as technology has changed in order to provide a better life for ourselves. We reached out to our neighbors in times of need. We've survived 2 World Wars, a great depression and numerous other tests on our lives. We've watched our young grow up, and we've watched our loved ones pass on And as of today there are 1654 different stories of how life is in the city of Maroa. When you put all of those stories together, you get one message....

We're still here today. We're going to try our best.

And when tomorrow comes, were going to be there too....

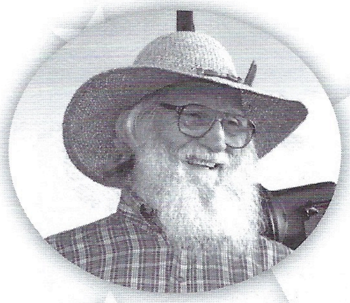
It may be a hard road, but in another 50 years, we're going to be even better. Here's to the future.

Happy Birthday Maroa!

BROTHERS OF THE BRUSH

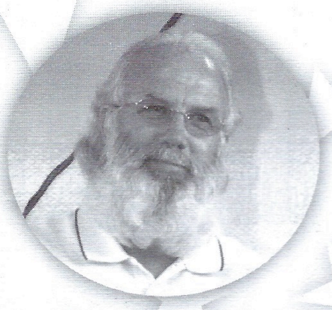
Front, left to right: Dave Burnett, Don Braden, Tom Mayberry, Jim Bragg, David Hughes, Ron Braden, Gynni Burnett, Stoy Bliss (seated behind Maurice Day), Maurice Day, Larry Groves, David Gardner, Bob Gentle, Leroy Lange
Back: Ron Agee, Ron Runyen, Brad Wilkey (standing behind Ron Braden), Dick Thomas (behind Gynni Burnett), Les Day

Some started the first of the year...
some started a week before, but
we had many contestants enter our
contest to pit their facial growth
against their Maroa "brothers".
And the winners were:



Longest Beard:
Maurice Day

Oldest Beard:
David Hughes



Beard That Tried
The Hardest:
Ron Braden

Ugliest Beard:
Ron Agee

Youngest Beard:
Dave Burnett

Whitest Beard:
Tom Mayberry

Most Becoming
Beard:
Stoy Bliss

Best Trimmed Beard:
Larry Groves

Best Untrimmed Beard:
Ron Runyen

Sisters of the Swish

After promoting the Fashion Show on Saturday, Mrs. Kathy Marsh (left) invited everyone who had dressed in vintage attire up on stage

EVERYONE LOVES A PARADE....

FOREIGN WARS
UNITED STATES
LEGIO

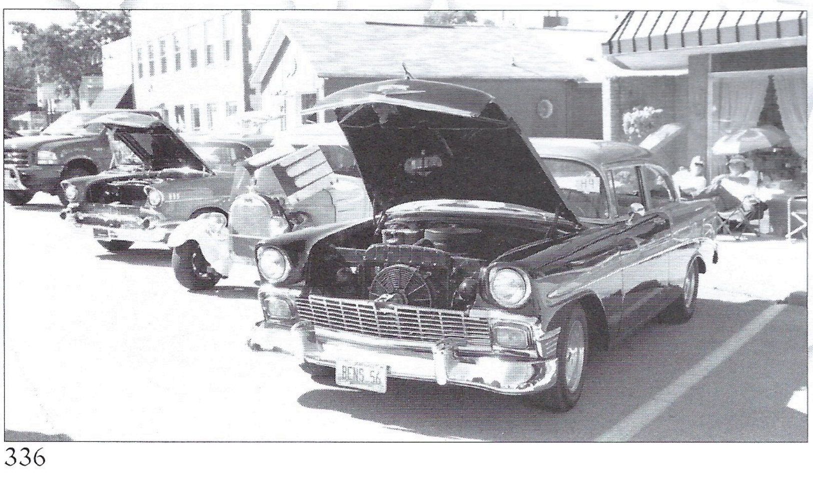
EVERYONE LOVES A PARADE....

Maroa-Forsyth
FFA Charter

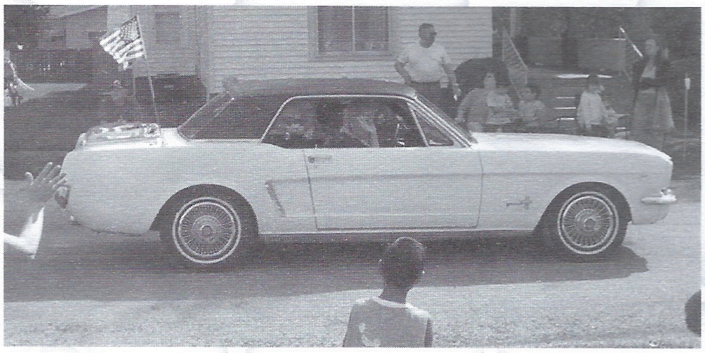
MAROA LIONS CLUB

CAR SHOW ON MAIN STREET

Sponsored by the Maroa Volunteer Firemen

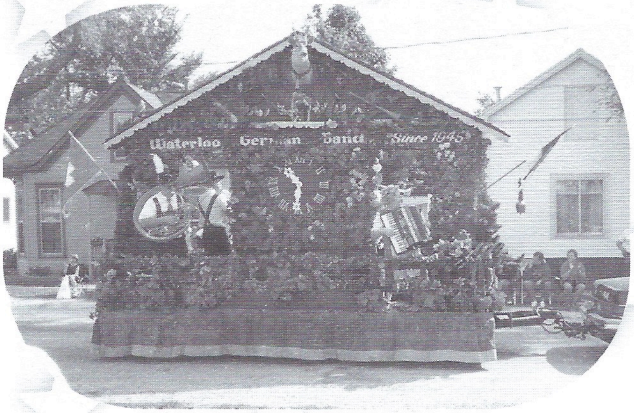


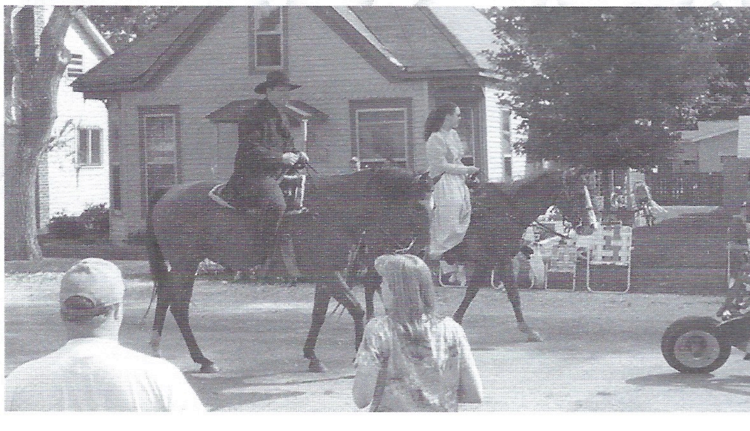
EVERYONE LOVES A PARADE....



"In the Shadow of His Love"

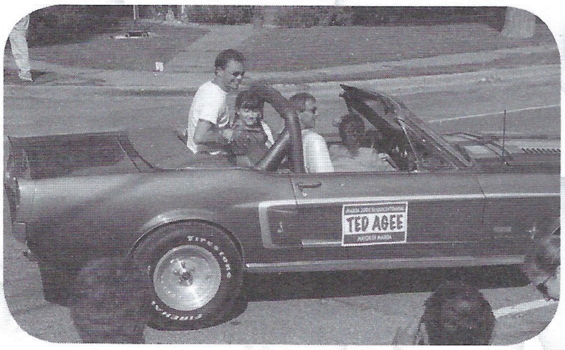
TEXACO
TOM GREGORY
BETHANY ILL.


Waterloo German Band Since 1945



CEMETERY
WALK

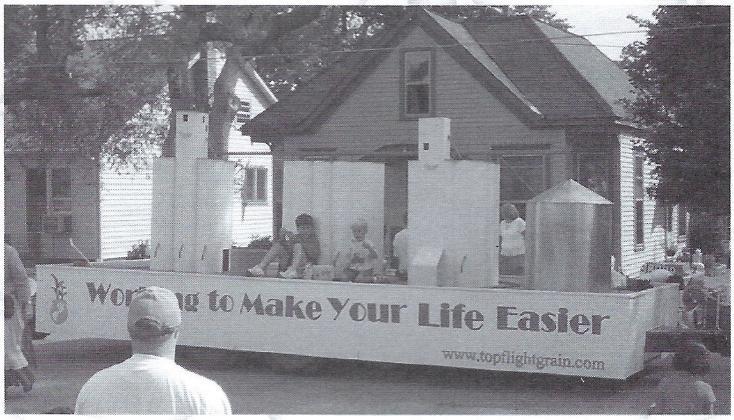
EVERYONE LOVES A PARADE....

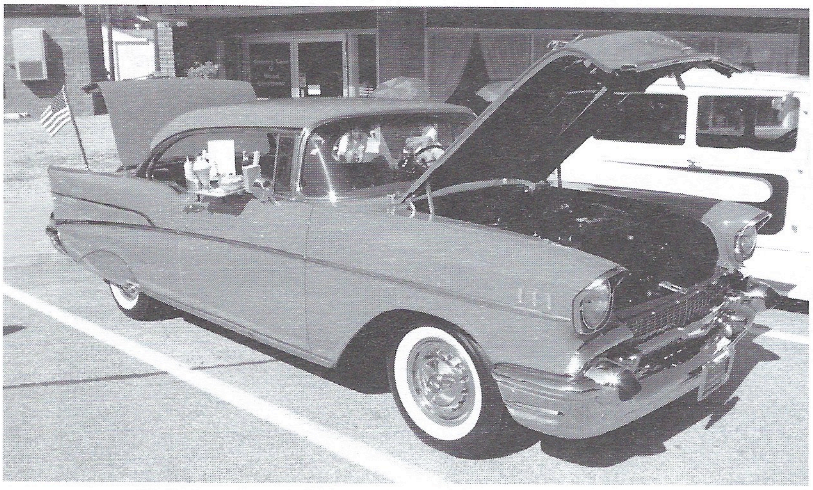

TED AGEE
MAYOR OF MARSHA

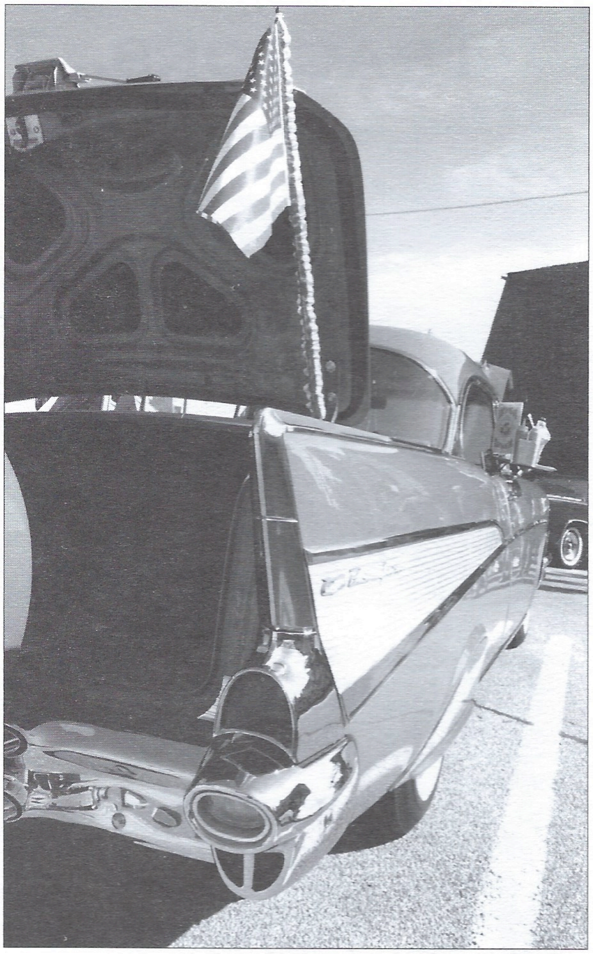
STANTON & FAYE MALONE
STANTON MALONE

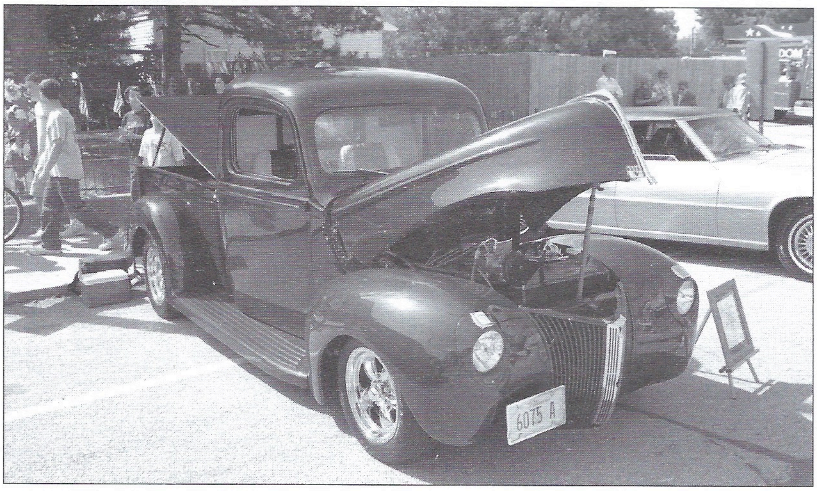
EDNA ROGERS
ERNESTINE CRABTREE

Generations


Wor ng to Make Your Life Easier
www.topflightgrain.com







ADAM HECKMAN USMC
USN
USMC
USA
USAF

Happy 150th!!

Country Lace &
Wood Creations

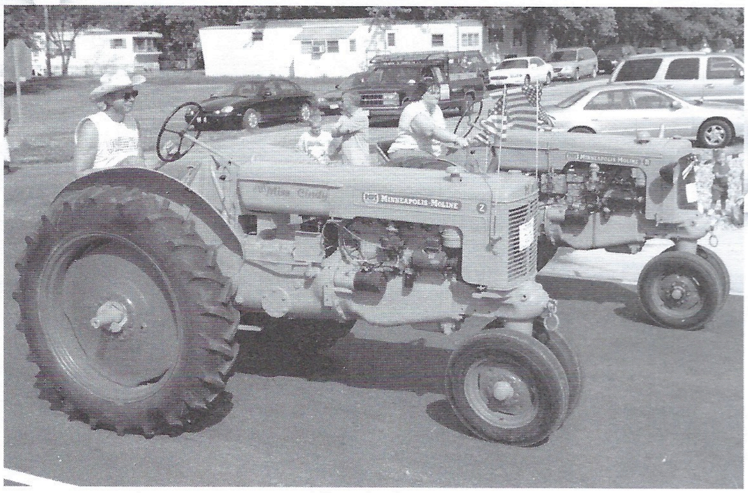
Lyle Campbell
AND SON REALTORS
440 North Monroe Street
Decatur, Illinois 62522

Jennifer Overfield, ABR, GRI
REALTOR®
Bus.: (217) 429-5218
Res.: (217) 425-4746
Toll Free: 1-800-747-5218
FAX: (217) 429-5101

MLS

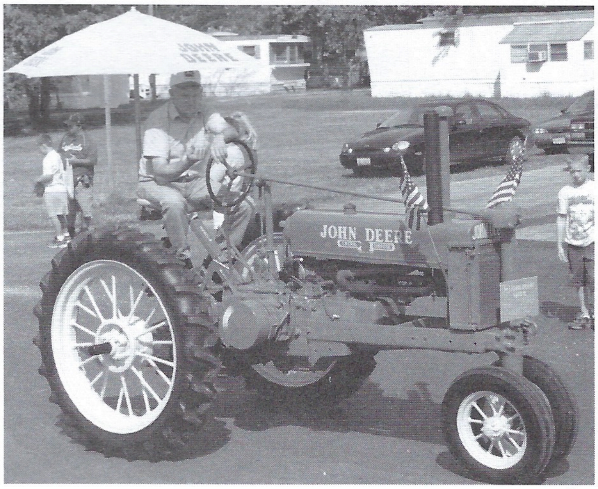
Happy 150th to my hometown!

TRACTORS...TRACTORS...TRACTORS

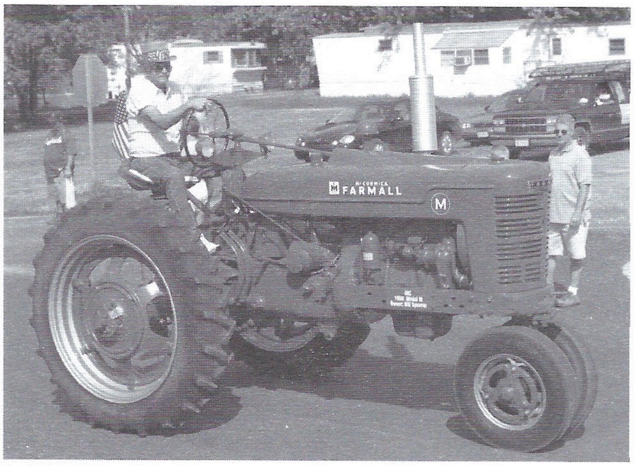

MINNEAPOLIS-MOLINE

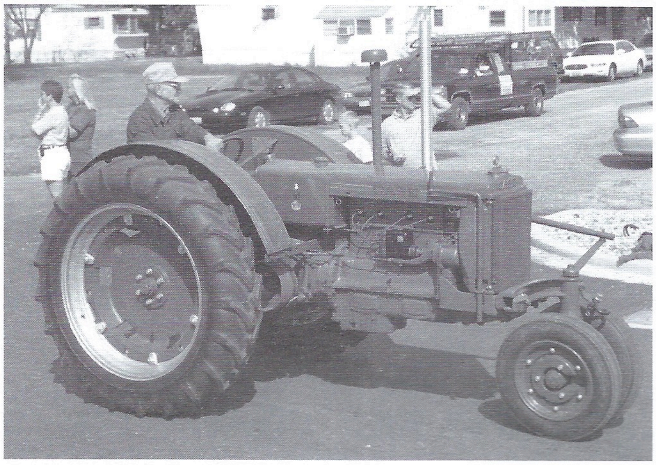
JOHN DEERE
JOHN DEERE
JOHN DEERE

JOHN DEERE
A



JOHN DEERE
B





David Williams
Macon County Board
District Six

750 East Wise Road
Maroa, IL 61756
217-877-1634

Representing Austin, Illini, Maroa
and most of Hickory Point
Townships.

E-mail: cntybrd6@fgi.net

Leadership Into The New Millennium

WESLEY WRANGLERS

THE WESLEY WRANGLERS

Pictured above, left to right: Wes Powell, Tim Shelley, Dave Plunkett, Tom Fogerson, Dan Nibbelin, LeRoy Wilson, Richard Hanes and Bill Turner. Missing is John Carter.

O Brother Where Art Thou? Why, in Maroa, of course!

DECATUR CHORDSMEN

Look closely and you'll see Maroa native Jack DeClerk second from right!

VINTAGE FASHION SHOW

Winners: Oldest Costume: DaLette Stowell modeling costume rescued from the trash! Prettiest Vintage Costume: Deena Walker, modeling dress belonging to Hazel Randall (mother of Kathy Hill & Rosemary Malone; Prettiest Ensemble: Annaleisia Hilburn, modeling a taffeta checked "Gone with the Wind" gown; Most Authentic Gown: Cindy Hanes, wearing 2-pc. black and white gown with crocheted gloves and a "shood" on her hair; Youngest Participant: Lily Thoms, wearing a blue & white checked dress. Katrina's very authentic gown also tied for prettiest.

Kathy Marsh

Luann Stemler

Lorene Weikle

Joyce Craig

Alex Cox

Cindy Hanes

Ruth Ann & Tori Wilson

Kaitlyn Starbody

Mariam Amr

Deena Walker

Joy Gardner

Melissa Thiebaud

Elizabeth McDuffie

Marilyn Gentle

Katie O'Reilly

VINTAGE FASHION SHOW

Alexia Thoms

Brandy Hunt & Shaylee Wikoff

Abby Keith

Mary (l) & Natalie (r) Ramirez

Julia McDuffie

Mallory Keith

Annaleisia Hilburn

Yvonne Cunningham

Nancy Day

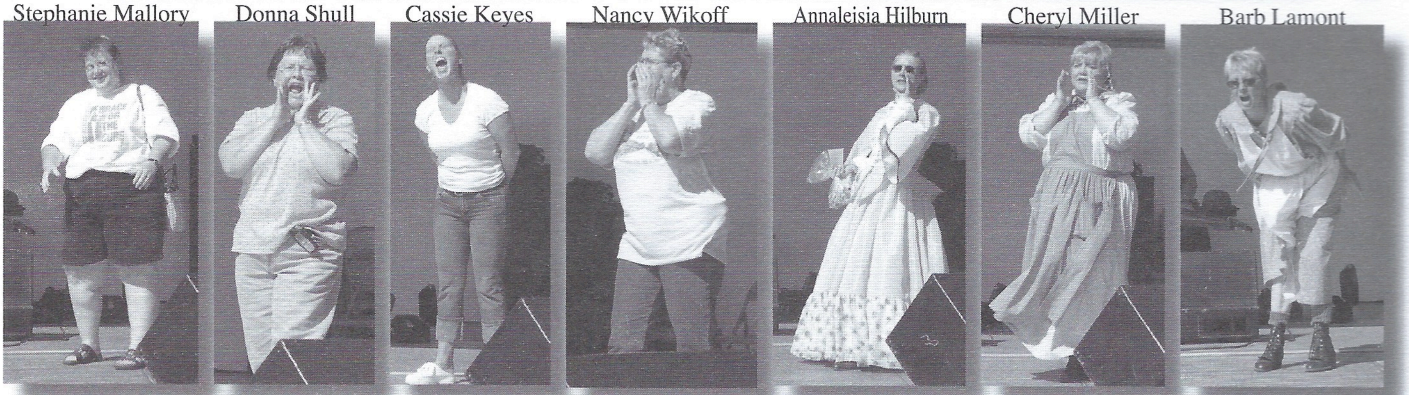
Dalette Stowell

Katrina & Lily Thoms

Cemetery Walk Actors: (from left) Sally Thicksten representing Friends of the Library and introducing walk performers: Michelle Maple as Emma O'Banion; Diane Richardson as Louise McLean Gentle and Phyllis Koch as Myrtle Braden

Larry Larsen
AS CHARLES SCHENCK

Husband Calling Contest



Stephanie Mallory Donna Shull Cassie Keyes Nancy Wikoff Annaleisia Hilburn Cheryl Miller Barb Lamont

...everyone had their own special style.....

...but when the audience voted with their applause.....

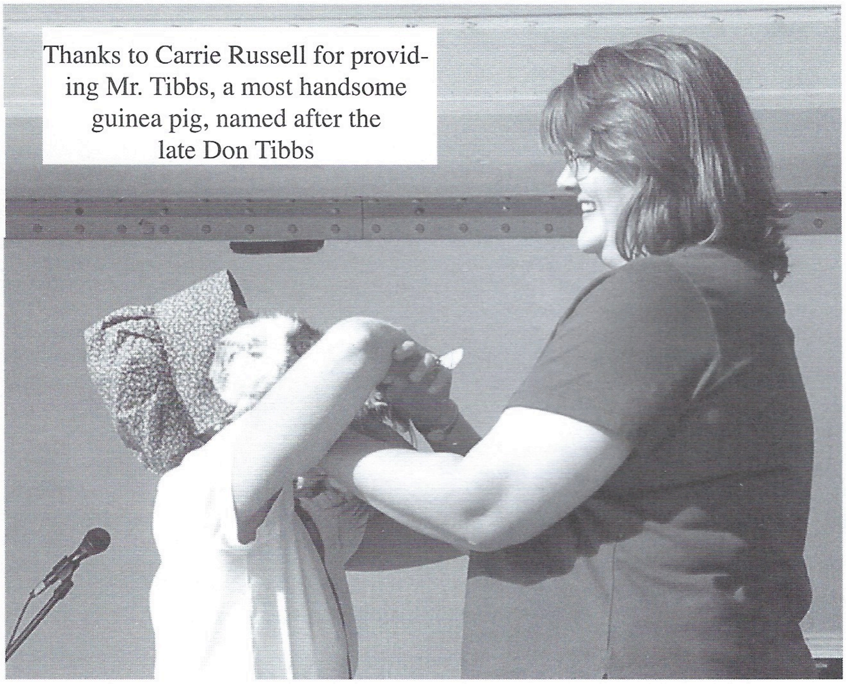
...it was a tie between Donna Shull & Annaleisia Hilburn so the prize was split...$25 each!

Who's Gonna Kiss That Pig?

Mayor
TED AGEE

Coastal Mgr.
TISH LARSEN

Hair Stylist
LINDA BIELSKI

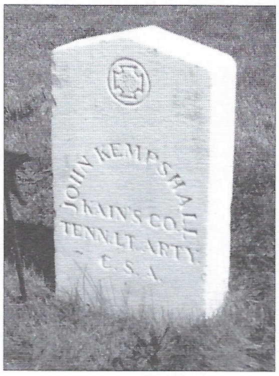


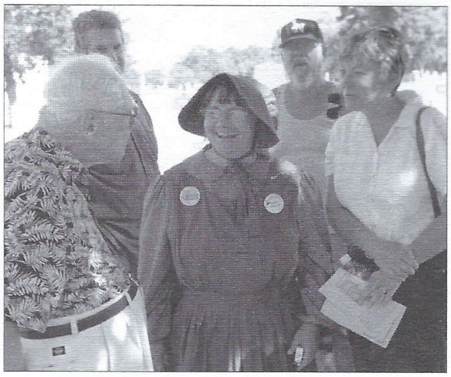
Thanks to Carrie Russell for providing Mr. Tibbs, a most handsome guinea pig, named after the late Don Tibbs

Townspeople voted with their wallets and chose Linda!

CEMETERY WALK

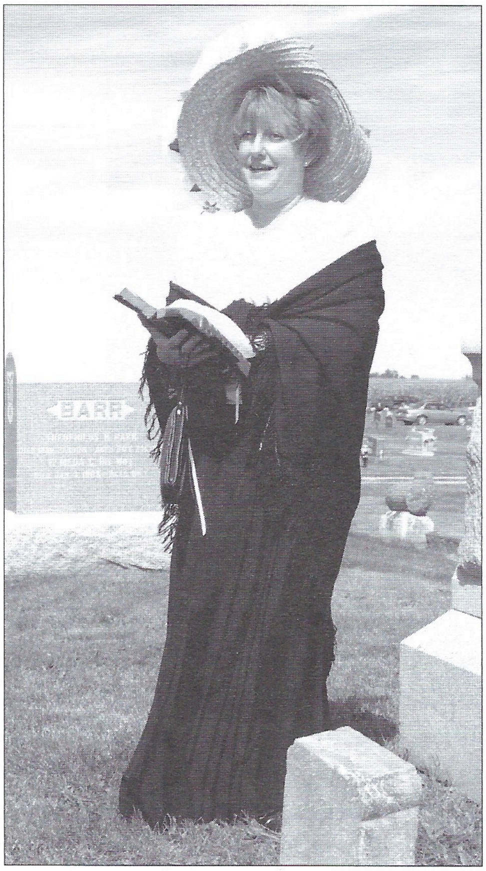
Sponsored by Friends of the Library


JOHN KEMPSHALL
KAIN'S CO.
TENN. LT. ARTY.
C.S.A.



JOHN KEMPSHALL JR. was born in Wescot, Surrey County, England on October 16, 1844 and was 10 years old when the family moved to America. In 1863 he enlisted in the Confederate Army. He fought in 8 battles, was taken prisoner and was said to be the only man in Douglas prison who refused a pardon from the President. In 1866 he returned to Maroa, started the first shoe shop and employed three shoemakers. He married Ruberta Ball and had four children.

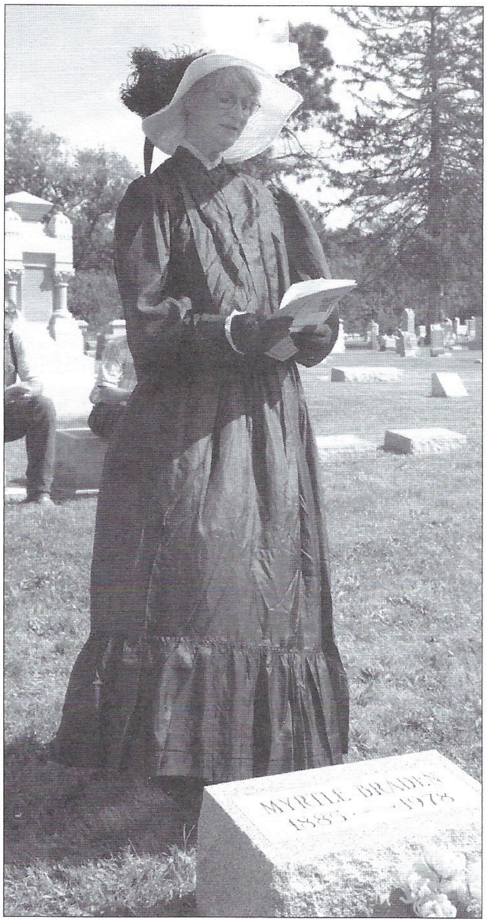
Mr. Kempshall was portrayed by two people during the walk. Pictured is Jim Plummer on the left, and on the right is Mr. Kempshall's 96-year-old grandson Wayne Kempshall.



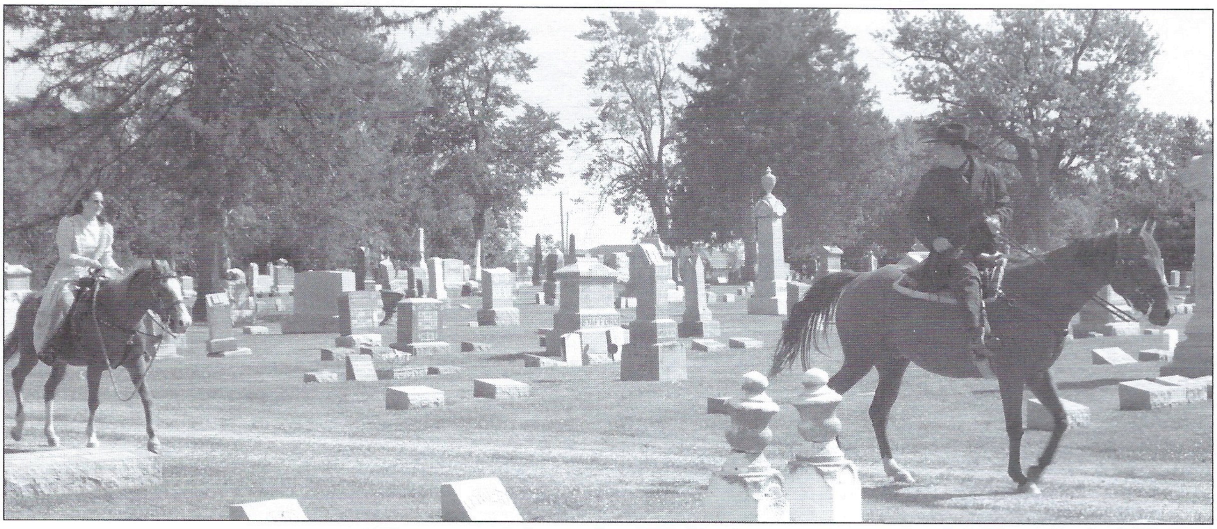
LOUISE MCLEAN GENTLE lived all her life in Maroa, the daughter of Dr. William McLean and Mrs. Margaret McLean. Her father practiced medicine in Maroa for years. Her great-grandfather on her mother's side was John Crocker, Maroa's first postmaster, first lumber and grain merchant, founder of the Presbyterian Church and organizer of the Crocker and Co. Bank. Mrs. Gentle was portrayed by Diane Richardson.

CEMETERY WALK

Sponsored by Friends of the Library



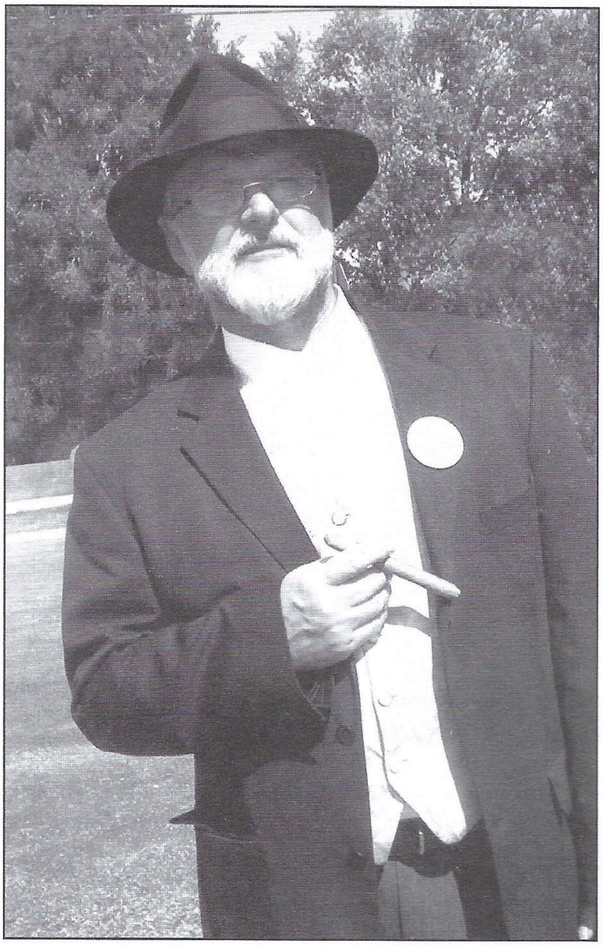
MYRTLE BRADEN was born April 2, 1885. Her father Samuel and grandfather David F. Braden game to the Maroa area by covered wagon in October, 1856. There were forty-three people in the wagon train and took 18 days to travel here from Ashland County, Ohio. Portraying Myrtle Braden was Phyllis Koch.



THE EASTERNER portrayed by Tim Shelley (right) was a well dressed man with black hat who came to this area in 1846. He approached Maroa—then only two log cabins—and instead of stopping he headed for a clump of trees about 3-1/2 miles west of the settlement. The area he approached is known as The Ridge. Turns out the Easterner was a thief of horses and gold. He worked at night with his cohorts known as the Ridge Gang. The story is told that one night he was "visiting" a large farm house north of Maroa and took a saddled mare. When he rode away, a dark-haired girl (pictured here on the left by Amber Powell) rode beside him. The next day her parents declared she had been kidnapped and a posse was organized to raid the Ridge Gang. When they arrived they discovered the cabins of the gang empty and so the story ends.

CEMETERY WALK

Sponsored by Friends of the Library



CHARLES SCHENCK moved to Maroa from Franklin, Ohio in 1882. He didn't waste much time deciding that what Maroa needed was a good cigar factory. He started out on a small scale but eventually the business supported 30 Maroa families. Mr. Schenck was portrayed by Larry Larson.

PRATT NELSON made his money on footracing ....not in winning but in losing! He bet a friend of his that the speediest man could not win a footrace. The day of the race came and when they put their toes on the line, each was covered by $1700. The distance was 100 yards. At the 35-yard mark the speedier one who was ahead by 2 feet, fell. Blood spurted from his mouth and he was carried off in a stretcher. Mr. Nelson went away with the winnings. That gimmick worked so well, he used it many times! Mr. Pratt was portrayed by Ron Rector.

CEMETERY WALK

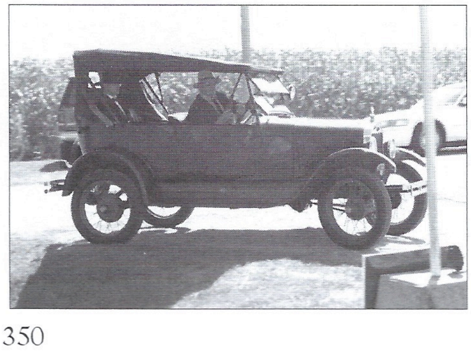
Sponsored by Friends of the Library

In 1898, **GEORGE CONOVER** founded a band in Maroa known as "Conover's Military-Band". For many years concerts were played on Main Street in Maroa at the corner of Walnut and Main. Winter concerts were played occasionally in the Opera House. Speaking on Mr. Conover's behalf was Sarah Rector.

MOTHER
EMMA O'BANION
1868 – 1898

Michelle Maple portrayed Mrs. O'Banion. Her son Dean was portrayed by Ray Ramirez. Dean's driver was portrayed by David Williams.

EMMA O'BANION was born in 1868. She married Charles O'Banion, a farmer and later housepainter and plasterer, and together they had three children: Floyd, Ruth and Dean. On the day after Christmas in 1898, Emma died from tuberculosis at the age of 30. Mr. O'Banion and their children moved to Chicago. Years later, their youngest son Dean would become the leader of the North Side Gang, with their headwuarters in a florist shop. Dean loved flowers and arranged them with a flair. Dean never forgot his mother. He bought her monument and brought flowers to her grave many times.



BINGO AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Left: Denise Carter cheers as someone yells "BINGO!" Below left: (l to r) Betty Jane Copher, her brother Ron Runyen, his wife Joyce Runyen and Betty's husband Russ Copher have their hands full trying to win a game

Below: Jennifer Foster double checks our her mother Sharon Greutman's cards to make sure she does indeed have a bingo

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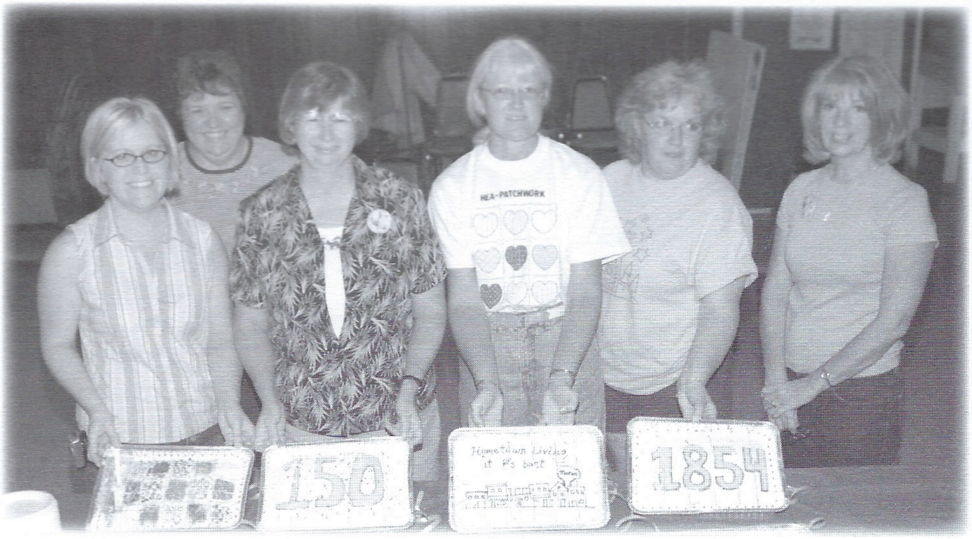
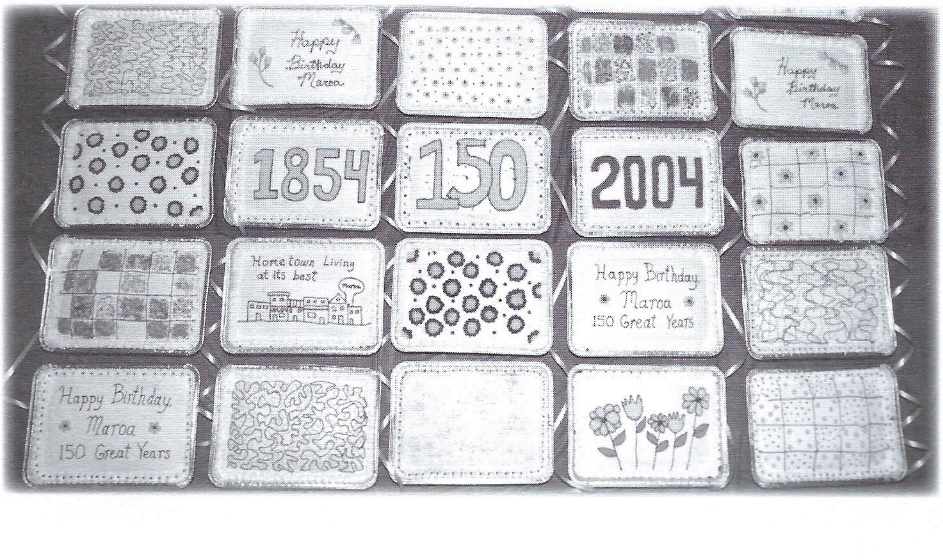

HEA-PATCHWORK
150
Hometown Living at its best
1854

BIRTHDAY CAKE FOR EVERYONE!

Members of H. E. A. pause to have their picture taken before serving birthday cake. The cakes were baked by the ladies of H.E.A. Ingredients were underwrote by the Maroa-Forsyth Community Bank. Pictured (l to r) are Michelle Maple, , Barb Hastings, Janice Leach, Sherryl Young, Ruth Darelius and Bobbi Mashburn


Happy Birthday Maroa
Happy Birthday Maroa
1854
150
2004
Hometown Living at its best
Happy Birthday Maroa 150 Great Years
Happy Birthday Maroa 150 Great Years

Happy Birthday, Maroa 150 Great Years

MAROA CHRISTIAN CHURCH CAKE WALK

Joyce Holland and Stoy Bliss (inside circle) wait for the music to stop so they can award a cake to one lucky winner!

A happy walker with his cake!

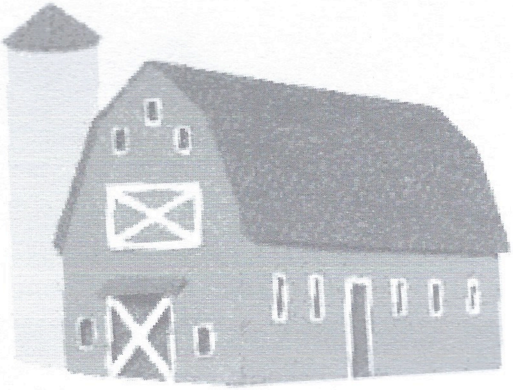
MARTIN
AUCTIONEERS
AUCTION CO

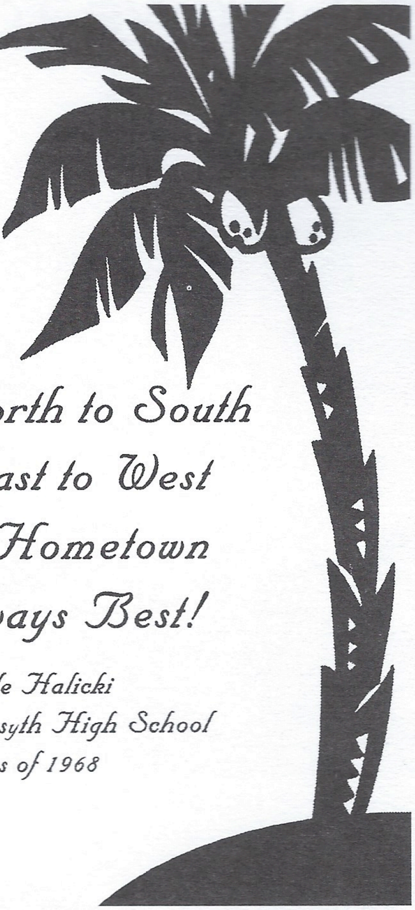
MAROA SCHOOL AUCTION

Many took a chance to own a piece of history as the school district auctioned off unwanted items

IN MEMORY OF
3 GENERATIONS OF MAROA HALICKI'S

Eyzador and Helen Halicki
Casimer James Halicki
John Harry Halicki





From North to South
And East to West
One's Hometown
Is Always Best!

Carole Halicki
Maroa - Forsyth High School
Class of 1968

In Loving Memory Of

Lori Anne Wilson

1961 ~ 1971

precious daughter of
LeRoy & Ruth Ann

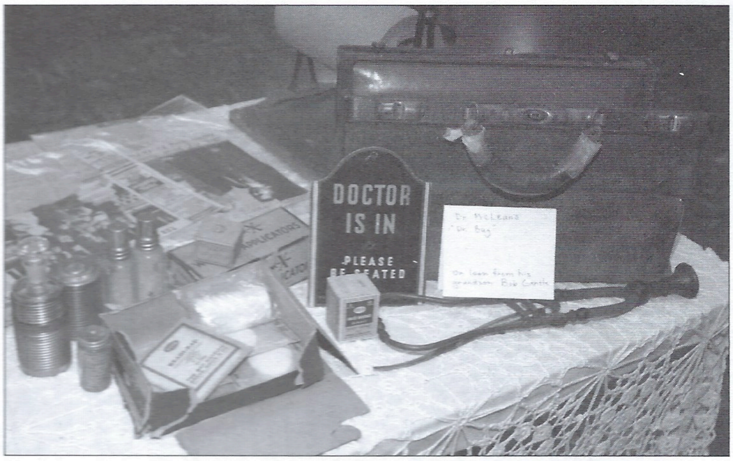
special sister of
Tim & Wes

WINDOWS TO THE PAST

Beautiful Vintage Clothing...Family Heirlooms...On Display In The Fashion Room

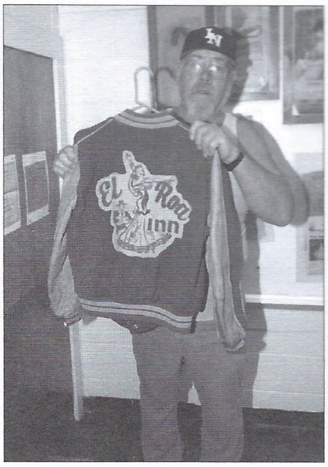
M.C.H.S.
MAROA ILL.
M

(Right) Edna Rogers Gym Suit


DOCTOR IS IN
PLEASE BE SEATED

A Selection of Dr. McClean's Medical Supplies

Visitors Search For Their Relatives in Old Photos

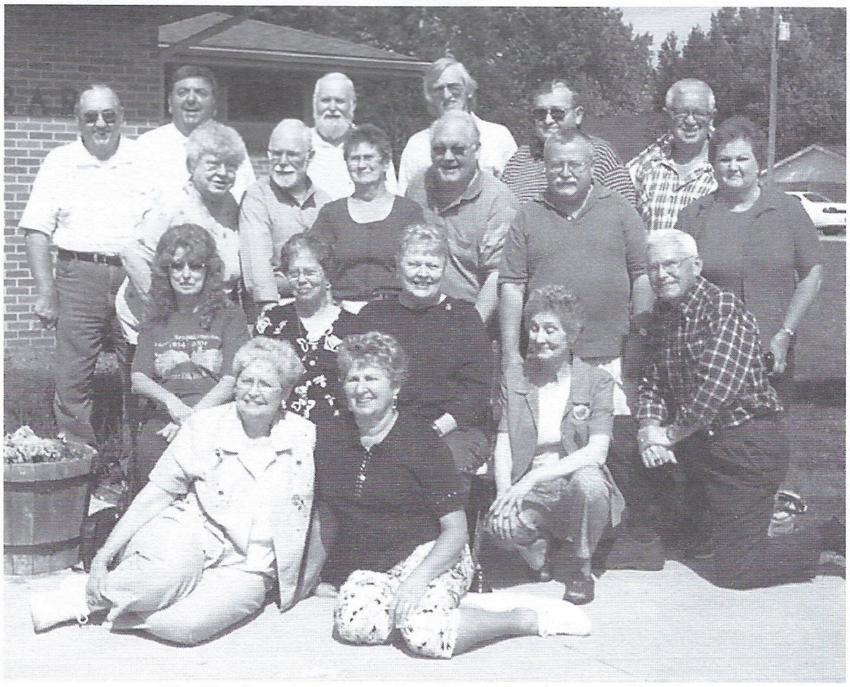


Larry Nix Shows A Jacket Donated By Ollie Dash

Jean Underwood StrollsThrough The Many Quilts On Display

CLASS REUNIONS

Many of the Maroa-Forsyth High School classes tried to plan their reunion, if they could, to coincide with the Sesquicentennial festival. The Maroa-Forsyth class of 1958 that was taken at the Maroa Library on Saturday, September 18 by Pat Thomas. The class held a reunion there during the Maroa 150 year celebration. The class were Freshmen at Maroa High School when the city celebrated their 100 year celebration.



CLASS OF 1958

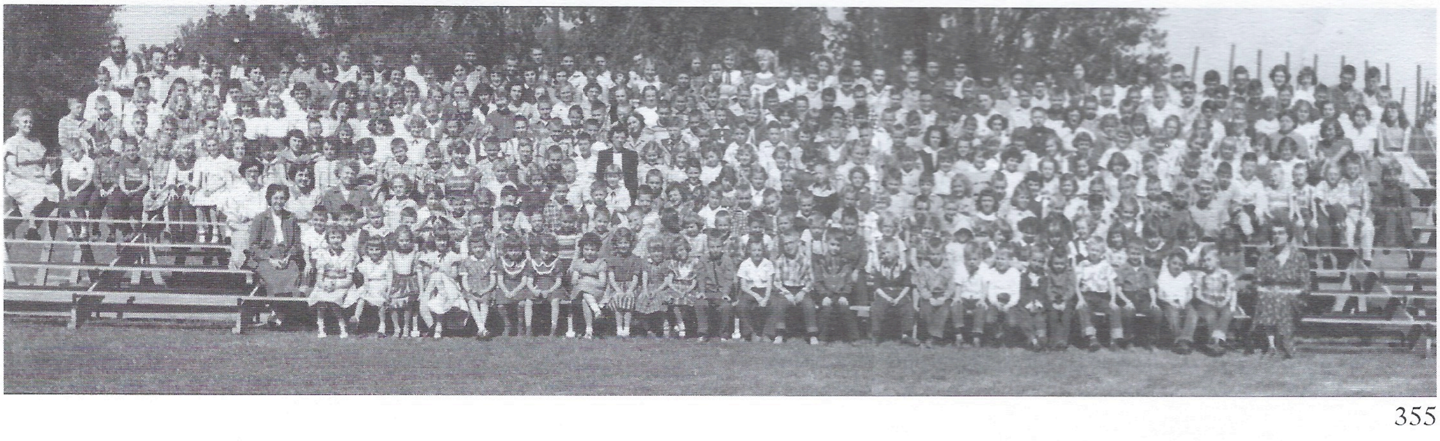
Pictured are seated in the front row, L to R: Pat Eastham North, Joyce Smith Morthland. Row two: Shirley Thompson Smith, Della James Cline, La Von Larson James, Joyce Greeson Craig. Row three: Karen Rush Baldwin, Robert Kinkaid, Maureen Gardner McDonald, Robert Wood, Reuben Dubson, Sidney Foulke, Martha Landgrebe Moit. Row four: Larry Austin, George Bennett, Dick Thomas, Benjamin Caplinger, Forest Pope, Robert Runyen. Class members came from California, Arizona, Missouri, Florida, Pennsylvania, Tennessee as well as Maroa and other cities within Illinois.

MAROA FORSYTH
CLASS OF
1984
20 YEAR REUNION

CLASS OF 1984

The class of 1984 gathered to watch the parade on the east side of the Library.

1954 MAROA GRADE SCHOOL STUDENTS

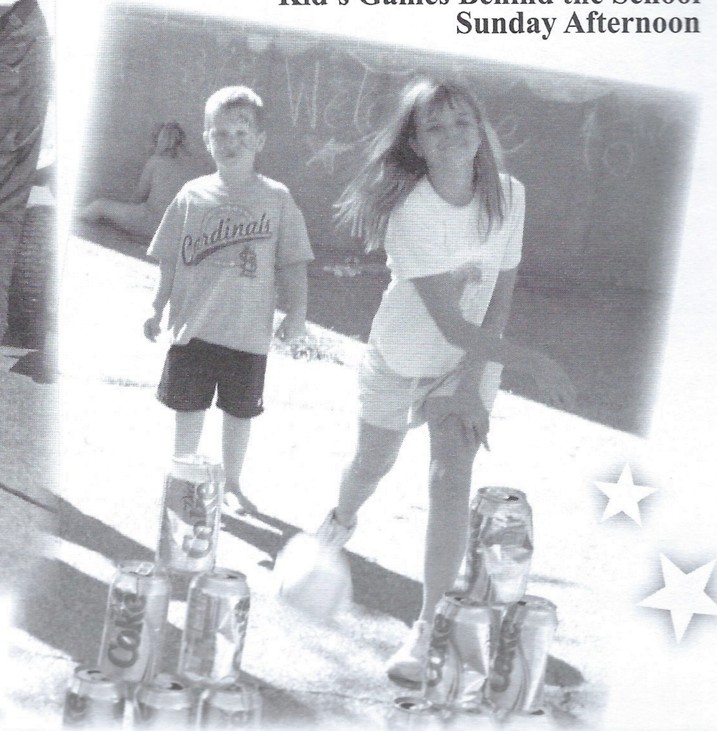


MAROA'S FUTURE...

oa-Forsyth
FA Chapte

Kiddie Tractor Pulls

Kid's Games Behind the School
Sunday Afternoon



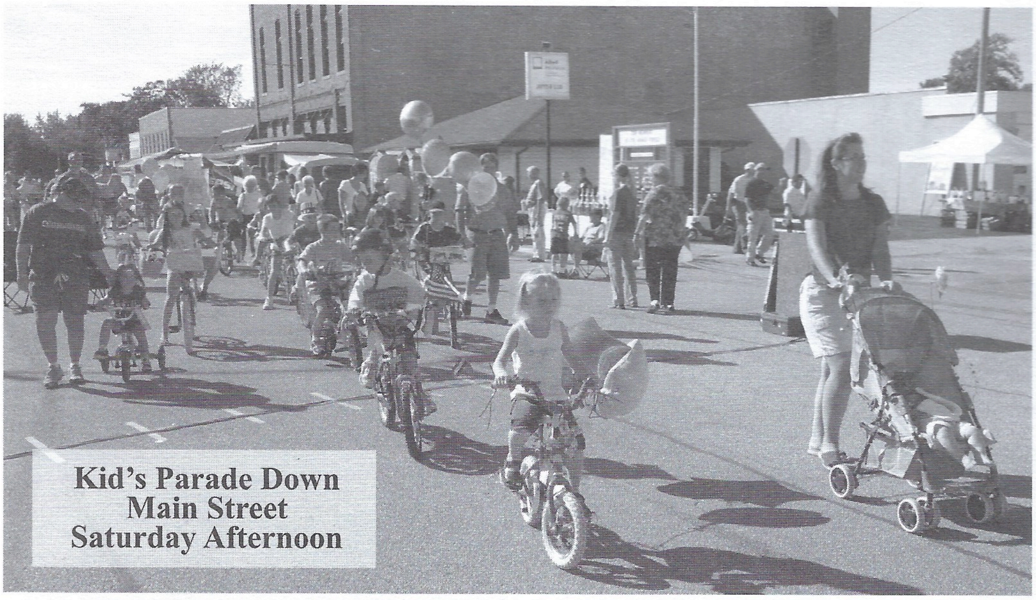
FREE
FACE PAINTING

KIDS
CORNER
PEPS

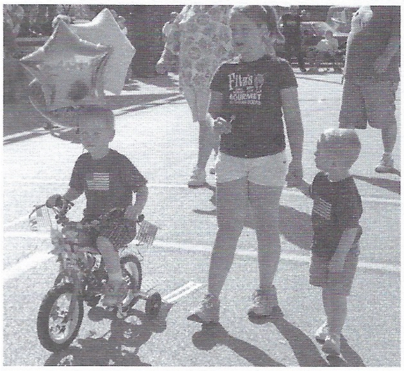
Claire Carter here poses
with Mother Goose.

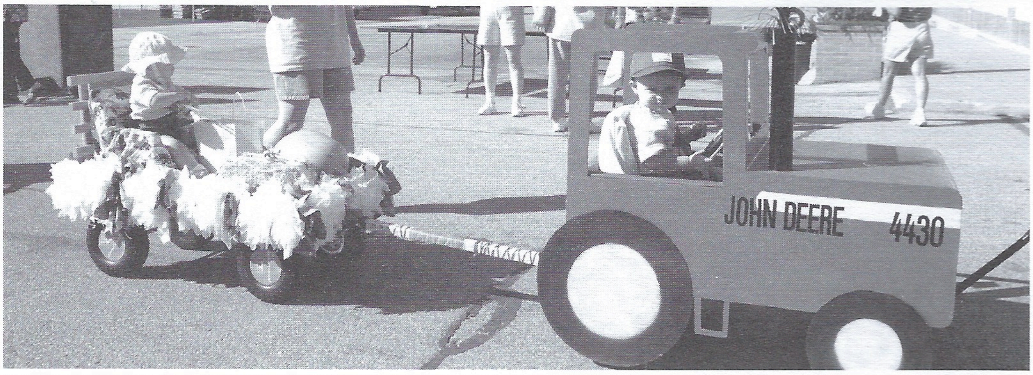
• FACE PAINTING • SAND BOX •
• BUBBLES • COOKIE WALK •

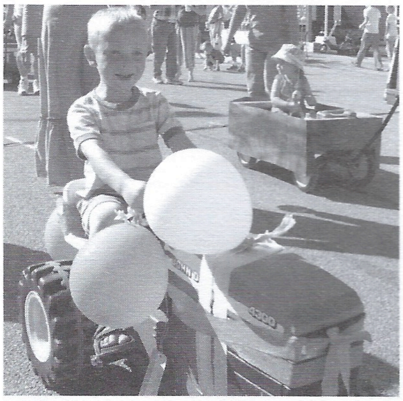
...HAPPY, SMILING KIDS

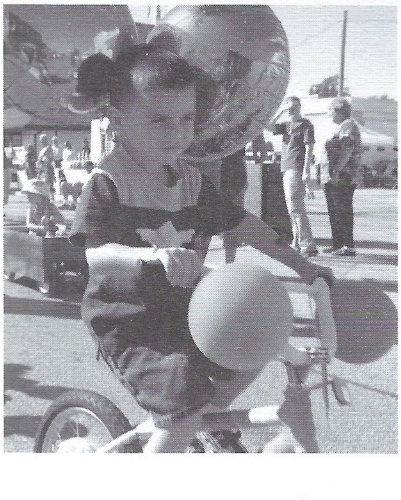


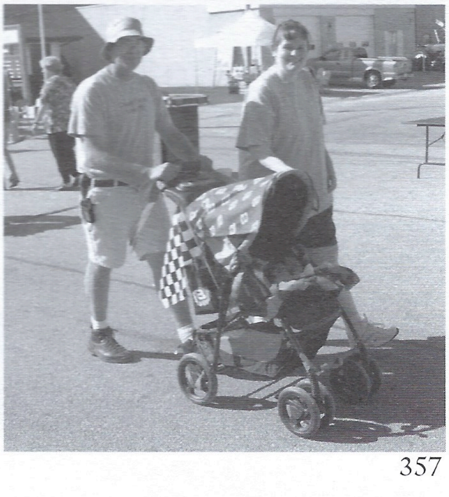
Kid's Parade Down
Main Street
Saturday Afternoon



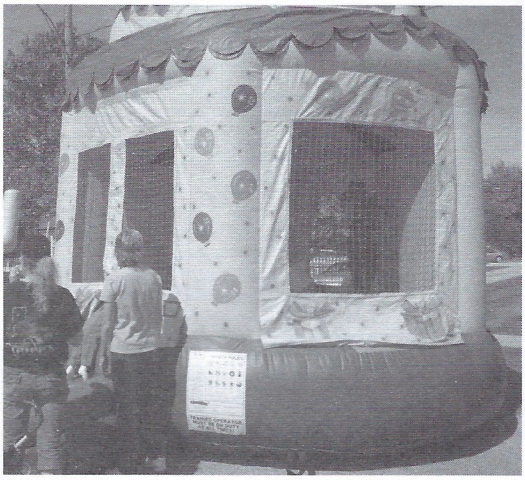

JOHN DEERE 4430

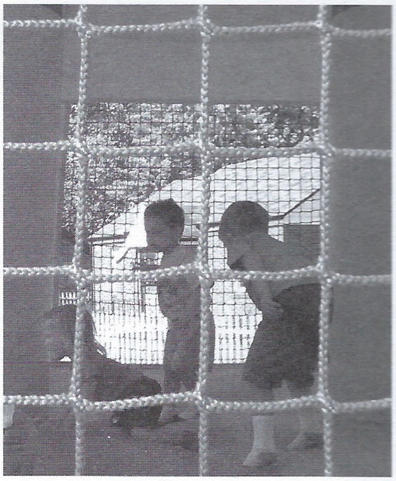






KIDS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN!





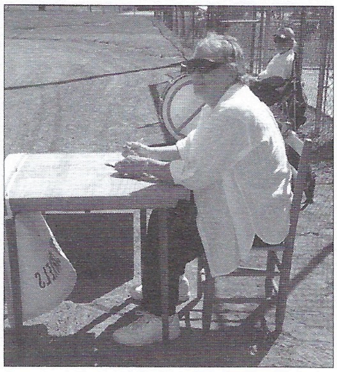
OLD-TYME BASEBALL

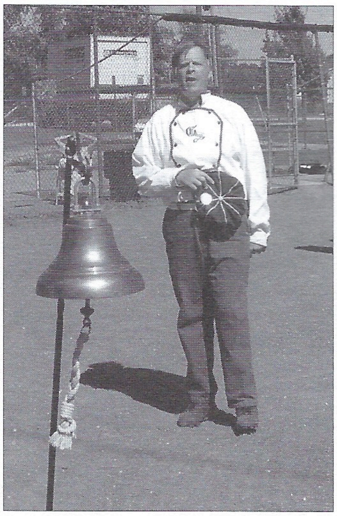
The vintage game that the Ground Squirrels play is modeled after the game played by the gentlemen's clubs of New York area before the Civil War.

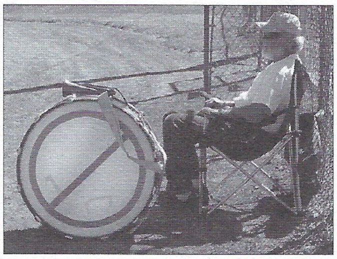
SQ Sluggers

VS.

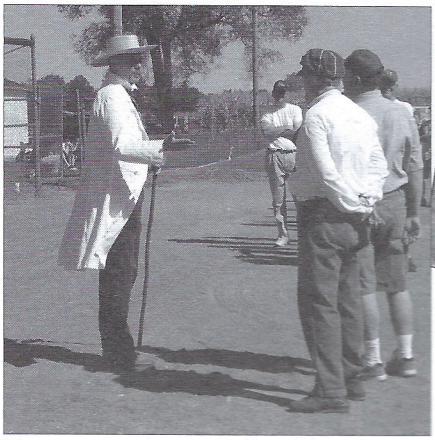
Rock Springs Ground Squirrels







Runners reaching home plate safely proceeded to the tally table (top), ask the tally keeper to record their tally, and ring the tally bell (center) which is followed by the beat of the drum (bottom)



Team captains get the rules from the umpire

Dean Hoffman makes the tag as Tammy Larson & Brenda Livingood come in to help

Denny Place heads for first

A familiar face on a Maroa ball diamond...Kevin Koslofski

SQ SLUGGERS ROSTER

Team Captain	Dave Williams
Hurler (Pitcher)	Brenda Livingood, Dave Burnett
Behind (Catcher)	David Williams, Becky Marsh
First Base Tender (1st Base)	Dennis Hamilton, Randy Hatton
Second Base Tender (2nd Base)	Dean Hoffman, Ron Rector
Third Base Tender (3rd Base)	Donna Mauzey, Mark Walker
Left Scout (left outfield)	Ted Agee, Sean Pittman
Mid Scout (middle outfield)	Dennis Place, Kevin Koslofski
Right Scout (right outfield)	Frank Starbody, Mendy Gillespie
Rover (shortstop)	Tammy Larson, Heather Procoroni

COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICE

(Above) Pastor Ron Rector officates the outdoor community church service at the intersection of Main and Locust streets.

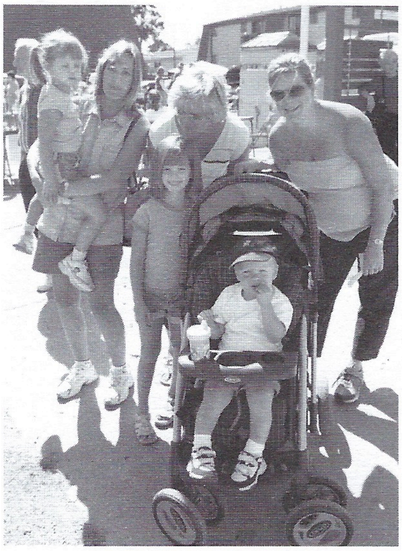
(Right) Following the community service, these folks in their vintage attire gathered for a picture on the Christian Church steps.

(Bottom) Choral group favors the church service with a song. from left: Gary Wood, Larry Larsen, Nancy Berry, Maddie Berry (child in front of Nancy), Amber James, Sarah Rector, Barb Wood, keyboardist Christopher Weisenborn and Mary Ann Rector, lead singer.

FRIENDS & FAMILY CELEBRATE!

Jason & Diane Edwards with their triplets Faith, Grace & William.

Dorothy Braden with her sons Steve (left) and Ron (right)

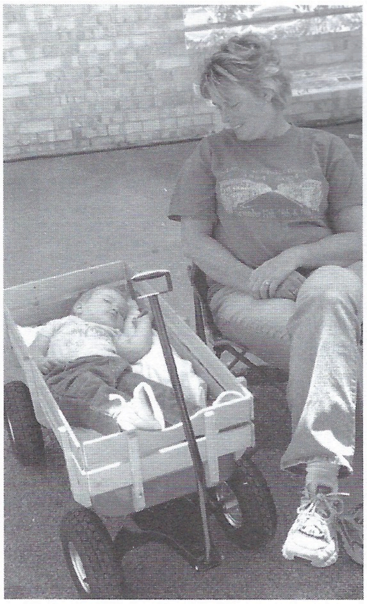


George Campbell, Carol Agee, Diane Campbell, Theresa Bayer and Tom Agee have it "made in the shade" as they observe Main Street activities

FRIENDS & FAMILY CELEBRATE!

The Crabtree Family

Wayne Kempshall and Family

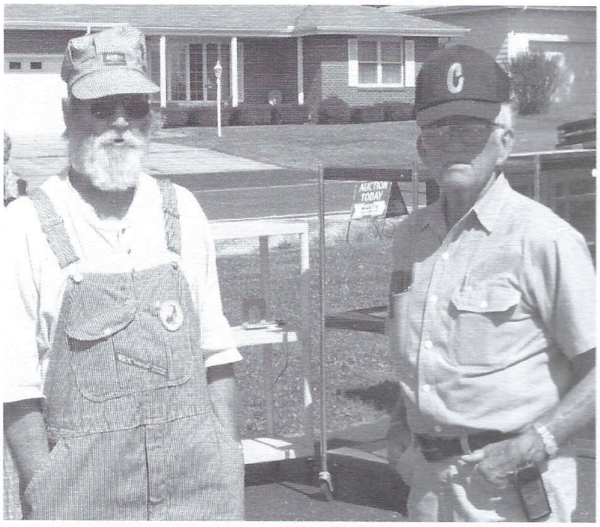


Debbie Miles Cook and granddaughter Nikki Leach

The Larry Hastings Family and friend

The Halicki Family

FRIENDS & FAMILY CELEBRATE!

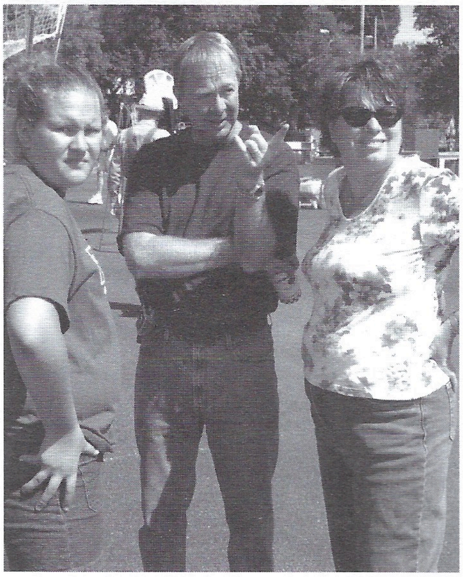


David Hughes and Bob Malone

Kathy Hans, Lorene Ashcraft Weikle, Janet Oakes Peasley and Mary Koonce

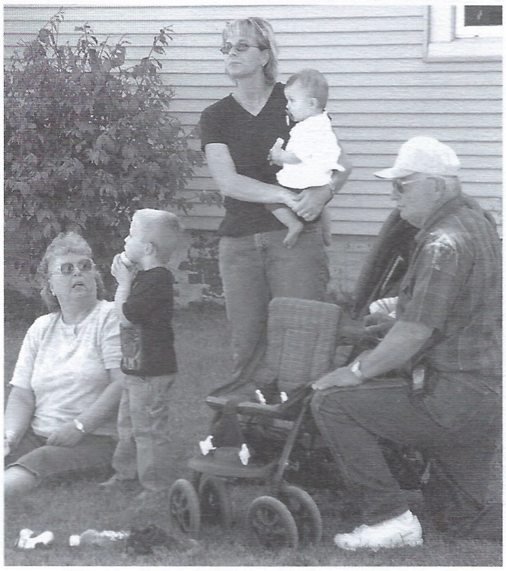
Mayor Ted Agee, wife April and daughter Loren

Cindy Hanes, Tracy Ferrill and Jill Horn



Dana Dale (center) chats with Hayley (l) and Sue (r) Bunselmeyer

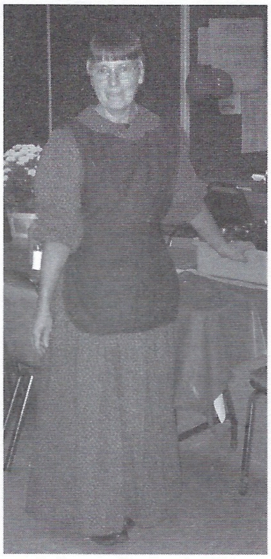
Orville "Ollie" Dash



FRIENDS & FAMILY CELEBRATE!

Cheryl Miller, Brenda Osborn, Linda Miller

Sheila Infante



Diane Campbell

Barb Lamont

Connie Wilson

Gary & Emily Dunham

Tish Larsen (left) and Linda Bielski (right) with their mother Betty Myer

Tammy & Larry Groves

Mary Sanders

Larry Larson, Kathy Hill, Helen Fair

Jennie & Jim Bragg

Norma Miles

FRIENDS & FAMILY CELEBRATE!

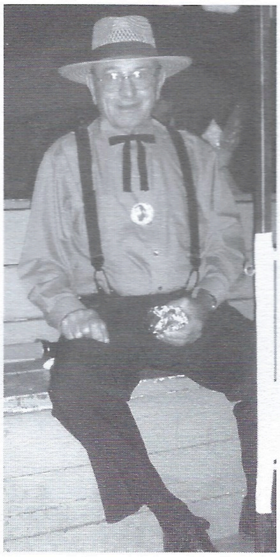
William Clark

Dorothy Braden Cisco celebrated her 82nd birthday on Sat., Sept. 19th

Cindy (Leslie) & Larry Day

Charles & Dennis Hamilton

Sue & Edna Rogers



LeRoy Wilson

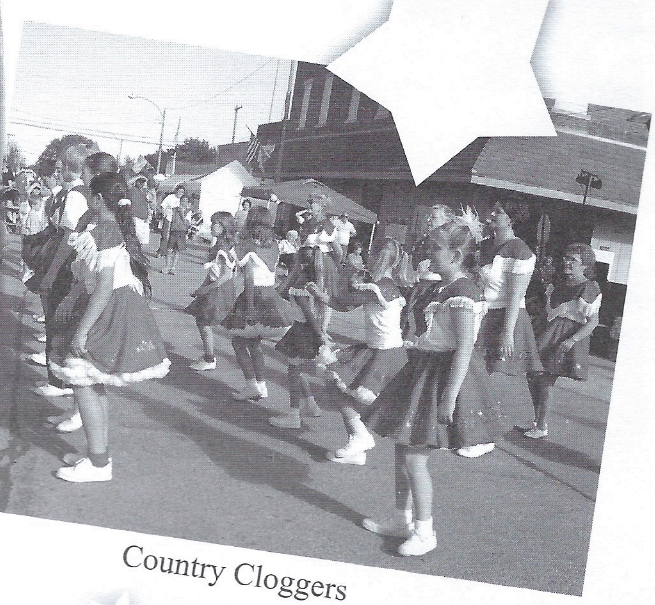
Junior Agee

Diana & Kathy Logue, daughter and granddaughter of Virginia Staminger (1920-2002) flew in from California

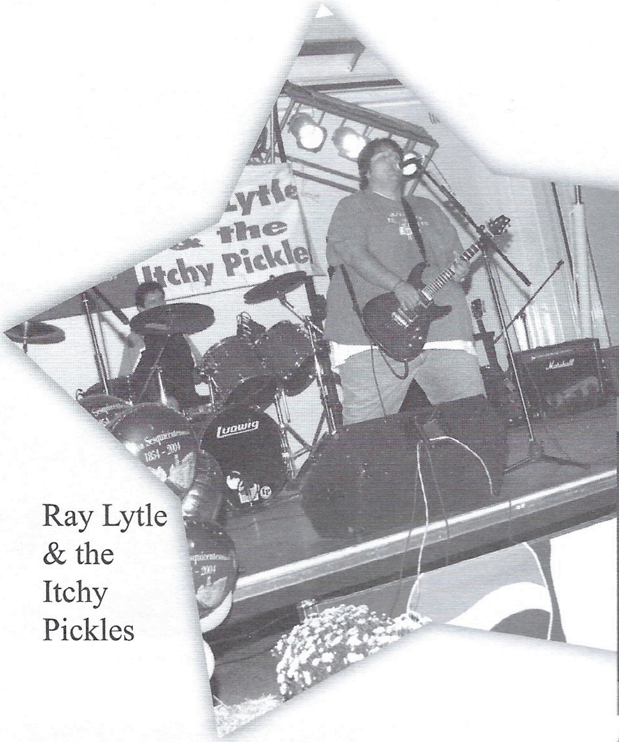
Della (James) Cline of Fairview Missouri and Joyce (Greeson) Craig of Normal ~ Class of 1958

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT....MAROA STYLE!

Modern Cowboyz



Country Cloggers



Ray Lytle
& the
Itchy
Pickles

Nathanial Price

Night Moves

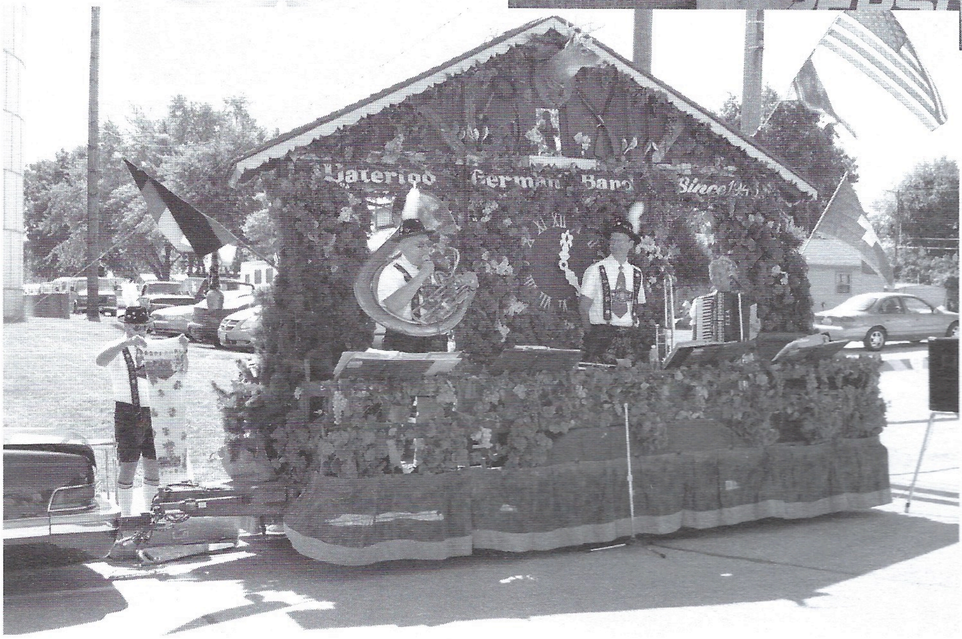
Hypnotist
Darryl
Corrington

4given
UPLIFTING origi

4Given

DECATUR PARK DISTRICT
TRUE MUSIC
COUNTRY THUNDER
150TH
STAGE
SPONSORED BY M&M CAFE

Country Thunder


Waterloo German Band Since

Waterloo German Band

THE OLDYWED GAME

On stage from left: Ben & Wanda Myers, Curt & Juanita Wilson, Shirley & David Pope and host of the show Sharon Woolum. In front of stage, helping write down answers and with scoring, from left: Bryan Markwell, Ray Ramirez, Barb Wood, Sharon Greutman.

Ben & Wanda laugh at Ben's answer!

Juanita gets a chuckle out of Curt's response.

Shirley & Dave get the last laugh as they win the game and $50!

Panning For Treasures

New Wrestling

Mom's
BREAKFA
ANYTIM

★ ★ ★ ★

Exotic Zoo Animals

Sharp's Karate

Lots To Do & See

1800s CRAFTSMANSHIP

(Top) Marilyn Gentle (right) gets a lesson in basket weaving from Margaret Ettling (left). Yet another "yarn spun" on the grade school grounds in picture at right!

CHRISTIAN CHURCH CATERED CHICKEN FRY

Sarah Rector finds the dinner finger looking good as she enjoys a Sunday afternoon with Alexia Thoms (left), Mallory Keith (right) and Lily Thoms (back right).

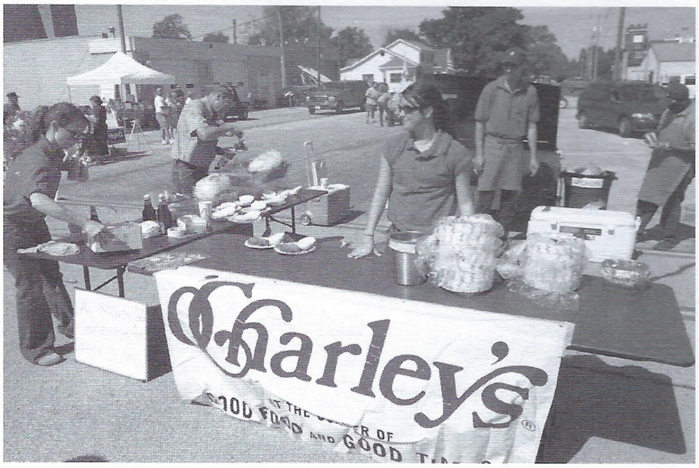
METHODIST CHURCH COBBLER

Ruth Ann Braden Wilson (left) and Donna Cunningham (right) dishing up their church's delicious fruit cobbler!

FOODS

Mmmmm...the smells that wafted down Main Street to entice customers was at times overwhelming. (Top right) Nancy Berry and helper man the Christian Church booth, offering homemade salsa. (Bottom right) O'Charley's was on hand to handle the hungry crowds. (Below) Larry Goetz, Jr., better known to Maroans as just "JR" mans the grill as Cara Sinkosky and John Leach Jr. look on.

MAROA CHRISTIAN
HOME MADE SALSA RELISH


O'Charley's
GOOD FOOD AND GOOD TI

CRAFTS

Crafters lined Main Street, selling everything from duck decoys (right) to jewelry. Below, Joy Porter Gardner stands in front of her booth from Fine Things

SOUVENIRS

50/50 Tickets
PSI
DUCTS
&
ENIR

The Sun Spot was "souvenir central". Virginia Brockman is manning the booth as this picture is taken.

Tanning Video/DVD rental Balloons, Gifts Cards

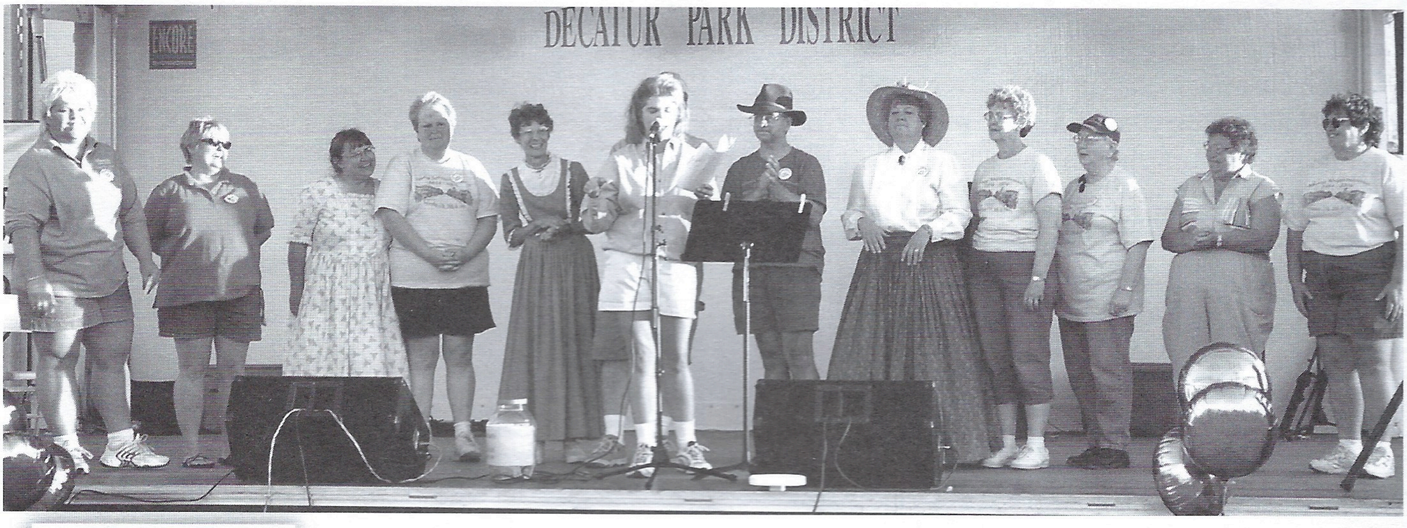
Sun Spot

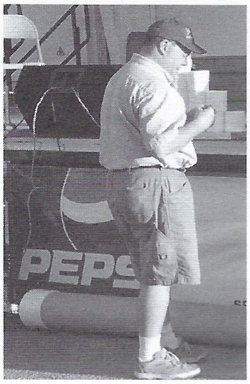
NEXTEL

- Business to Business Sales
- Full line of accessories
- Coming soon VERIZON
- Call Dave @ 794-2107 or 519-3517
- Email burnett@locomp.net

Dave & Gynni
Burnett
Owners

Closing Ceremonies





A memorable weekend comes to a close. At the microphone is Gynni Burnett, Celebration chair, reading a long list of "Thank You's" to everyone who helped make this weekend possible. The remaining committee members, left to right: Cyndi Walker- treasurer; Denise Carter- Kids block; Karen Halicki- past president, M&M Display; Sharon Woolum- Kiss a Pig, Husband calling, Oldywed game; Marilyn Gentle-secretary; David Williams (behind Gynni)- parade; Baseball game, Red Cross; Ray Ramirez- Souvenir booths; Kathy Marsh- History Display; Fashion Show; Joy Gardner- Vendors; Virginia Brockman- Souvenirs, Joan Dobbs- Souvenirs; Sharon Head- City Representative.

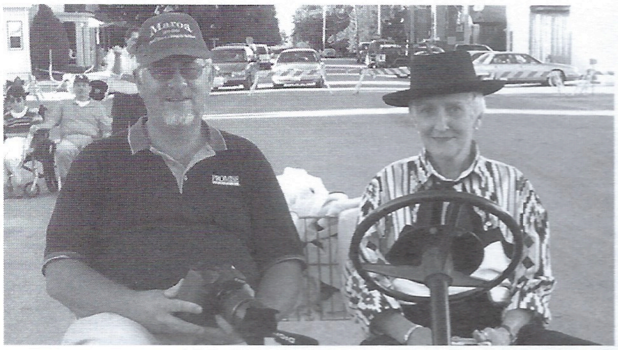
((Left) David Williams adds something to our time capsule, which is to be buried, then unearthed and opened in 2054

One of Our 50/50 Raffle Winners
Jerry Kuykendall and wife Jill

4-H Presentation of Tree planted in Spencer Park
Hayley Bunselmeyer making presentation to Mayor Ted Agee

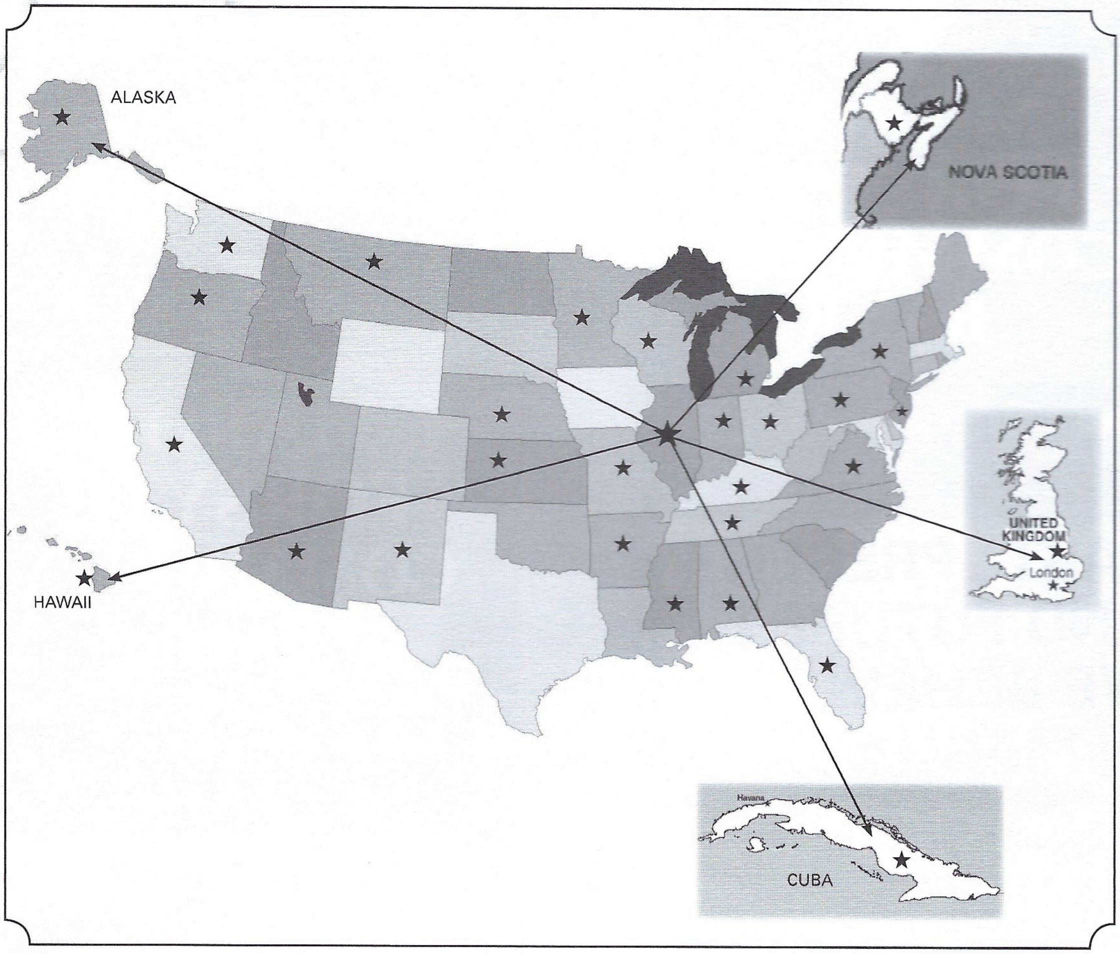
Friends of the Library
Porta Potty Decorating Winners

Our Photographers
John Berry and Luann Braden Query



THEY CAME FROM NEAR AND FAR...

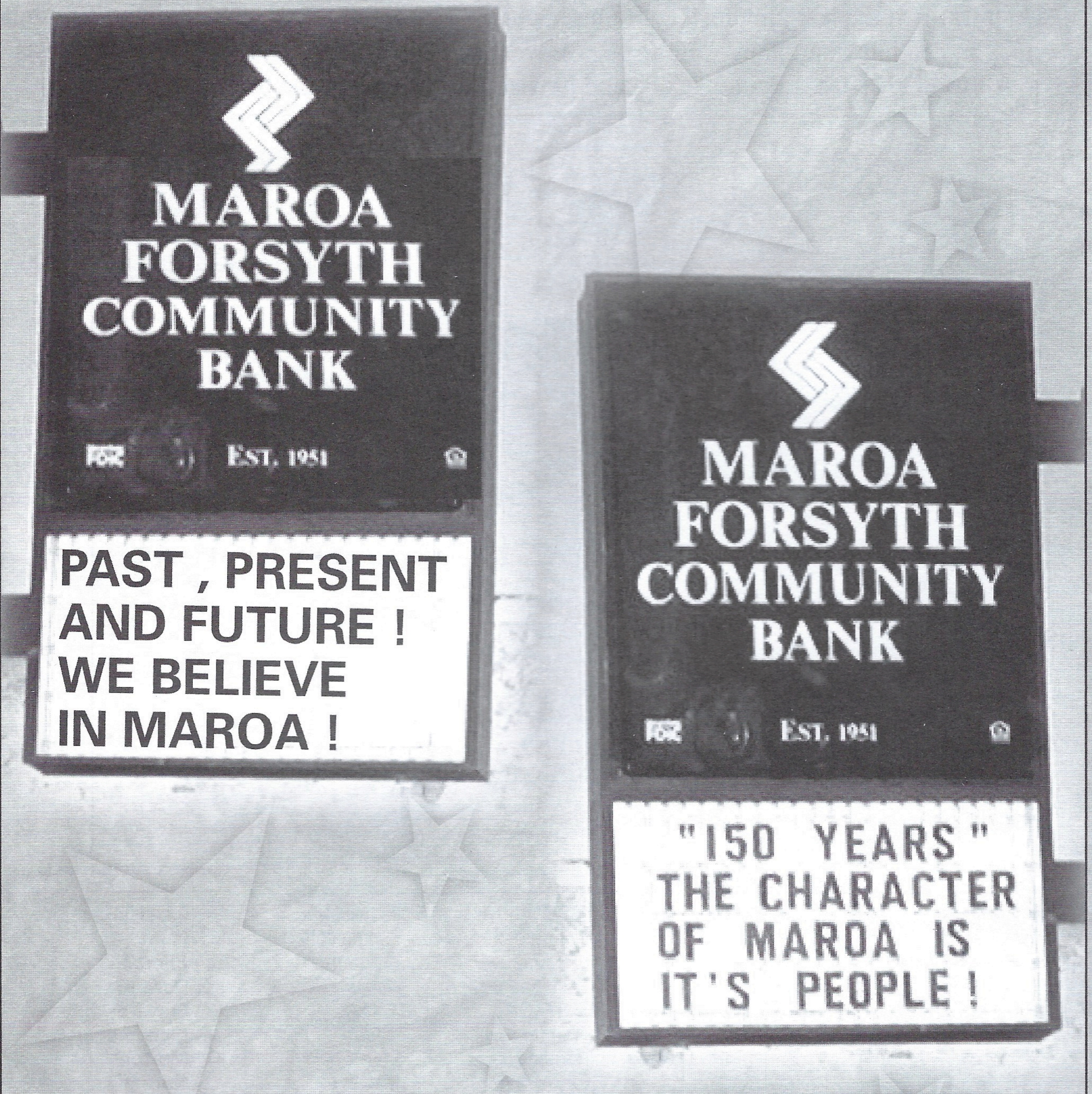
On a whim at the last minute, Ray Ramirez put up a map and asked visitors to put a thumb tack indicating where they were from. We were so surprised to see that there were guests from 29 states, England, Cuba and Nova Scotia attending the Sesquicentennial!



- **CUBA**
- **CANADA**
  - Nova Scotia,
- **ENGLAND**
  - Nottingham
  - Plymouth

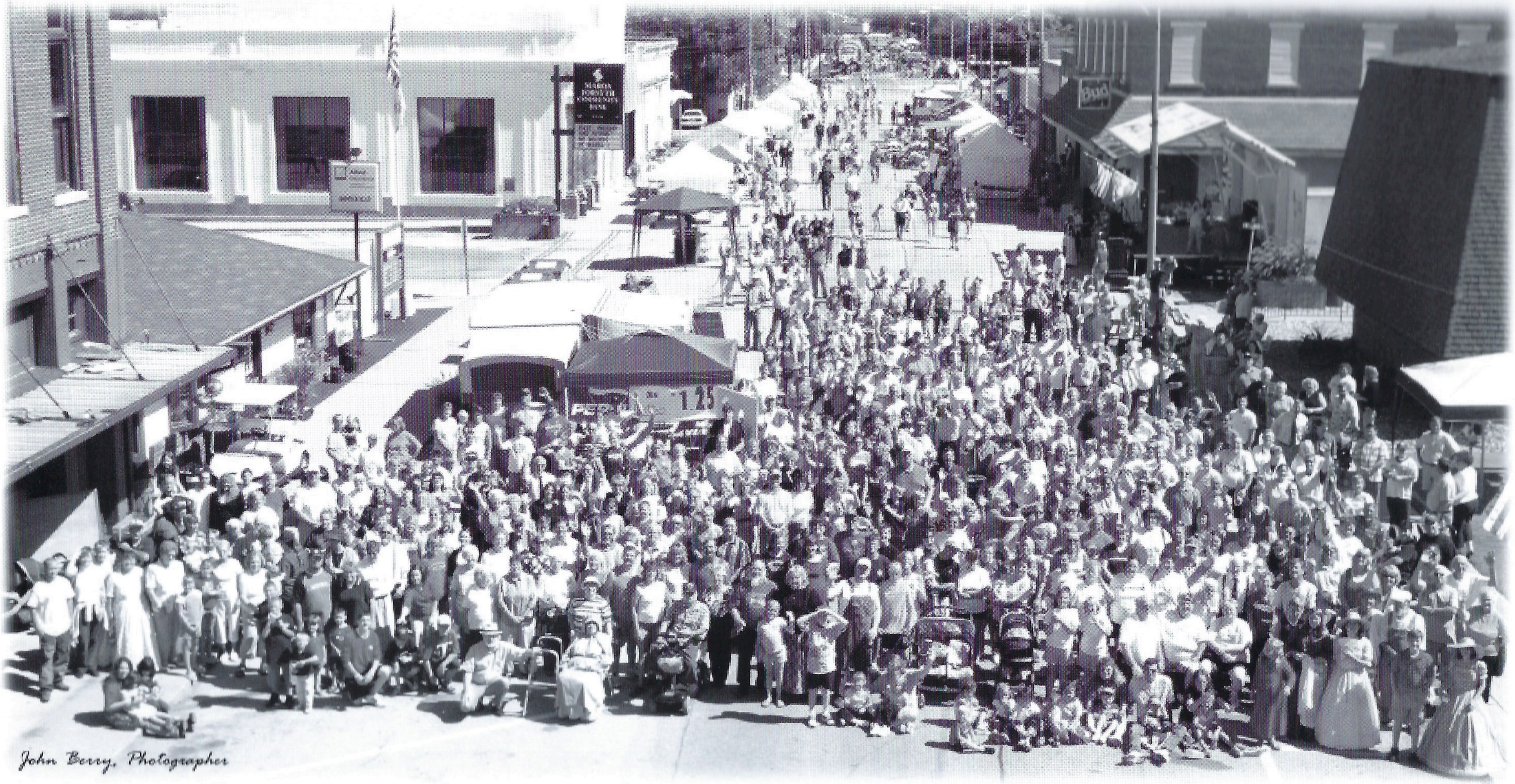
- **ALABAMA**
  - Troy
- **ALASKA**
  - Anchorage
- **ARIZONA**
  - Prescott
  - Tucson
- **ARKANSAS**
  - Jacksonville
- **CALIFORNIA**
  - Los Angeles
  - Palm Springs
  - San Diego
  - San Francisco
  - Solvang
- **FLORIDA**
  - Bartow
  - Delund
  - Orlando
- **HAWAII**
  - Wailuku
  - Pukelani
- **INDIANA**
  - Anderson
- **KANSAS**
  - Salina
- **KENTUCKY**
  - Ashland
  - Hopkinsville
- **MARYLAND**
  - Alexandria
- **MICHIGAN**
  - Jackson
- **MINNESOTA**
  - Grand Rapids
  - St. Cloud
- **MISSISSIPPI**
  - Gulfport
- **MISSOURI**
  - Columbia
  - Jackson
  - Neosha
- **MONTANA**
  - Granite Peak
  - Red Lodge
- **NEBRASKA**
  - Falls City
- **NEW JERSEY**
  - Brunswick
- **NEW MEXICO**
  - Albuquerque
- **NEW YORK**
  - New York
- **OHIO**
  - Bowling Green
- **OREGON**
  - Tillmook
- **PENNSYLVANIA**
  - Clarion
  - Pittsburgh
- **TENNESSEE**
  - Clarksville
  - Lebanon
  - Paris
- **TEXAS**
  - Plano
  - Temple
- **VIRGINIA**
  - Arlington
  - Virginia Beach
- **WASHINGTON**
  - Townsend
- **WISCONSIN**
  - Madison
  - Kenosha
- **WYOMING**
  - Casper
  - Cheyenne
- **ILLINOIS**
  - Aurora
  - Bloomington
  - Champaign
  - Chicago
- **ILLINOIS,** (cont.)
  - Clinton
  - Decatur
  - Edwardsville
  - Macomb
  - Morton
  - Normal
  - Olney
  - Pekin
  - Petersburg
  - Romeoville
  - Salem
  - Springfield
  - Sullivan
  - Toledo
  - Toulon
  - Washington

And of course,
Maroa!


MAROA FORSYTH COMMUNITY BANK
EST. 1951
PAST , PRESENT AND FUTURE ! WE BELIEVE IN MAROA !
MAROA FORSYTH COMMUNITY BANK
EST. 1951
"150 YEARS" THE CHARACTER OF MAROA IS IT'S PEOPLE !

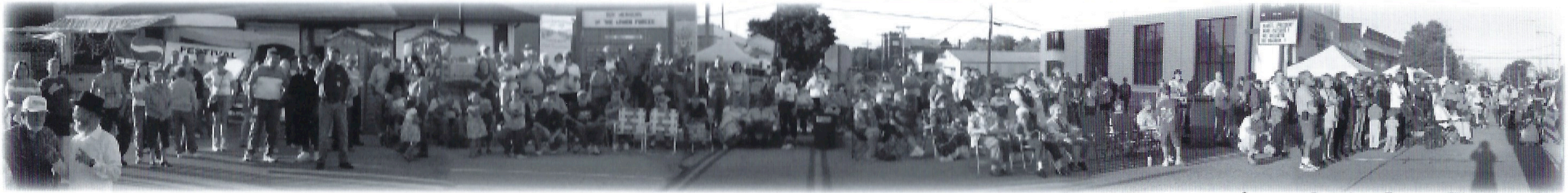
THE SIGNS ON THE BANK MARQUEE SAYS IT ALL...

Maroa Sesquicentennial City Picture ~ September 19, 2004 ~ Main Street Maroa



John Berry, Photographer

Maroa Sesquicentennial Opening Ceremonies ~ September 17, 2004 ~ Main Street Maroa



Luann Braden Query, Photographer